Men travel toward Monodor, the city built in the middle of the desert to receive the Mother's child. "Holy Mother", the mother of all of humanity and the only woman left alive, lives in the Temple of Monodor ----------

But she's an old woman and she hasn't born a child in a long period of time. There are no children, no women, only men live in this world. Will life continue to grow? Will trade continue to thrive? Then suddenly Mother is killed. The moon breaks into fragments and a new Mother must appear before it becomes full once again. Young, beautiful, just who is this new "Holy Mother" ----------?

萩尾望都

MOTO HAGIO
PRESENTED BY
SHOGAKUKAN

PETIT COMICS

マージナル 1

萩尾望都

小学館

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萩尾望都

1期、2期全34巻揃い！ 大好評発売中

ひとコマ、ひとことが、あなたの心に鋭く響く！

作品集

第1期		第2期
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塔のある家	2	百億の昼と千億の夜[2]
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小学館

GRINJA

ASHIJIN

MIKARU (MIKAL)

MEIYA-DO (MEYARD)

KIRA

BEFORE THE AWAKENING,
I WAS SLEEPING.

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Marginal

Prologue

Holy Mother

BANG

IN ANY CASE THE PROMISE WAS WRONG!!

ARE YOU TELLING US THAT OUR COMMUNITY SHOULD JUST DIE THEN!?

IT'S BEEN MANY YEARS ALREADY!

THOUGH WE FULFILL THE YEARLY TAXES, THE PROMISE ISN'T HONORED.

A CHILD!

SEND US A CHILD.

THIS VERY YEAR IT'S OUR TURN.

HAVE YOU MET THE HOLY MOTHER?

THAT TIME YOU EVENTUALLY RECEIVED TWO CHILDREN.

7 YEARS AGO, THE TIME HAD COME FOR YOUR COMMUNITY AND

HOLY MOTHER ... SEEING HER!

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO GET ONE THIS YEAR.

YOU AREN'T THE ONLY ONES WAITING FOR A CHILD.

WHEN WILL IT BE THEN?

THOSE FEW CHILDREN ARE BEING SEIZED BY THE RICH MEN OF THE CITY!

MOTHER HAS GROWN OLD, IN THE PAST TEN YEARS THE NUMBER OF BIRTHS HAS CONTINUED TO FALL.

MOTHER WILL REALLY... SHE REALLY WILL BE BROUGHT OUT.

IF YOU WERE TO SEE HER HONORABLE PRESENCE, YOU WOULDN'T ASK FOR THE IMPOSSIBLE.

... IT'S BEEN SIX MONTHS.

TOMORROW. HOLY MOTHER WILL COME OUT ONTO THE TEMPLE'S BALCONY.

...
WHENEVER I LOOK AT IT,

I NOTICE THE ODD SHAPE OF THE CENTER.

IT'S THE SAME FROM THE HIGHEST TOWER IN THE CITY. YOU JUST CAN'T SEE INSIDE.

WELL, IT'S A SANCTUARY AFTER ALL.

THE MIDDLE PORTION OF THE TEMPLE IS COMPLETELY COVERED. YOU REALLY CAN'T LOOK INSIDE.

HOW IS IT?

IT'S THE TEMPLE'S PEACE-KEEPERS!

WE'LL LOSE OUR TURN FOR THIS!

STOP IT, KENKA!

WH

EVEN IF I HAVE TO STEAL IT, I'LL TAKE A CHILD WITH ME AND RETURN!

DON'T TELL ME TO RETURN TO OUR COMMUNITY WITH THIS IM-MENSE SHAME!

NOW, THIS CITY WILL ALSO KNOW THE HARDSHIP OF ANNIHILATION!

LET'S RETURN TO THE INN, GRINJA.

...BY NOW THE MAP SHOULD BE AS GOOD AS COMPLETED.

IT HAS AN EXTRA-ORDINARY DEFENSE.

THE TEMPLE IS LOCATED IN THE HEART OF THE CITY MONODOR.

THE SURROUNDINGS OF THE GATES ARE CROWDED, THEY MEETING PLACES FOR THE PILGRIMS STAYING IN THE INNS.

THERE ARE 12 GATES, 12 CORRIDORS, 12 COURTYARDS AND 12 CHAPELS LEADING TO IT.

THIS IS SAID TO BE THE HOLY MOTHER'S RESIDENCE.

CENTER

THE INNERMOST PART OF THE TEMPLE, COVERED BY THE GLASS DOME, COULD BE CALLED "CENTER".

YOU CAN FREELY ACCESS THE TEMPLE FROM HERE.

CITY HALL

BALCONY

CITY STREET

AND THERE ARE GUARDS TOO. AS EXPECTED WE CAN'T GET INTO THE DOME.

THERE'S ALSO AN UNDERGROUND PASSAGE THAT'S BEEN CONSTRUCTED LIKE A MAZE.

AT NOON TOMORROW HOLY MOTHER WILL APPEAR AT THE TEMPLE.

I DON'T NEED IT ANYMORE, THIS EVENING YOU CAN BUY AN *IROKO* WITH HABAT.

IT'S YOUR BRACE-LET.

GRINJA, TAKE THIS.

WHAT'S LEFT IS TO BE-LIEVE IN LUCK.

ARE YOU SCARED OF TOMO-RROW?

... NO

TOMO-RROW WILL BE A BUSY DAY

Translator's Note: 'Iroko' is used to refer to the young adults who take on the female role. The kanji reads both as colored child and sensual child.

GO TO THE SECOND FLOOR FOR YOUNGER ONES.

Ching Ching

CHITO, GUEST.

TONIGHT THERE'S HARDLY ANY GOOD ONES LEFT, IS THAT OK?

IT AN OLD BRACELET, ISN'T IT?

IT'S OK.

OVER HERE

WANT TO SEE?

WHY THE GLOVES? ARE YOU WOUN-DED?

YEAH. ARE YOU A TRAVE-LER?

WHI-NE

NO ... DID YOU COME TO RECEIVE A CHILD?

I'M NOT A CHILD.

I'M AL-READY 15.

I DON'T SLEEP WITH CHILDREN.

YOU STILL ... HAVE THE COLORING OF A CHILD.

THEY TOLD ME THAT AT THE MEDICAL CENTER.

IT'S STABLE LIKE THIS.

PEOPLE WHO RETAIN THEIR COLORING PARTLY ARE CALLED MOSAIC.

BLACK, BROWN... IF THE SKIN HAS COLOR, YOU'RE STILL A CHILD.

IS THAT THE BUILDING INSIDE THE TEMPLE...? HOLY MO-THER'S...

ABOUT THE MEDICAL CENTER...

IT'S OK...

IF IT BOTHERS YOU I'LL PUT ON MY GLOVES AGAIN.

WHEN PART OF MY COLOR STAYED I WAS CALLED TO THE CENTER.

IN JUST ONE YEAR, THEY TURN WHITE AND STAY THAT WAY.

LOOK, CHILDREN USU-ALLY START TO LOSE THEIR COLORS AROUND THE AGE OF 10.

YES, THERE'S A HOSPITAL THERE... IT'S EXCEP-TIONAL.

BUT THE CENTER IN THE HEART OF THE TEMPLE IS WHERE CHILDREN COME FROM AND THE BODIES OF THE DEAD ARE BROUGHT BACK TO.

STORIES A-BOUT THE SANCTUARY ARE TABOO AND SOME PEOPLE EVEN GET MAD AT ME FOR IT.

I TALK ABOUT IT BECAUSE I WENT THERE ALREADY AND RETURNED.

TRUTHFULLY, THE HISTORY OF THE TEM-PLE IS RE-ALLY GOOD.

YOU WANT TO HEAR ABOUT IT? IT'S REALLY AMAZING.

IT'S THE FIRST TIME I HEARD THE STORY OF A PERSON GOING TO THE CENTER.

IT'S BEEN TWO MONTHS SINCE I CAME TO THIS CITY ...

THE CENTER IS REALLY LARGE.

IT'S DIVIDED INTO SEVERAL SECTIONS DEEP UNDERGROUND.

WAS HOLY MOTHER THERE?

THE SECRET UNDERGROUND IS WHERE MOTHER MADE THE CHILDREN.

WHAT IS OVER THERE?

I WENT TO A SCHOOL I SAW THERE.

EVERYTHING

AFTER THAT I UNDERWENT VARIOUS INSPECTIONS.

WOOF

SO I WAS BROUGHT BACK TO THE CITY.

THE COLOR WOULD REMAIN BUT THEY FOUND NOTHING THAT MIGHT COMPROMISE MY HEALTH.

IN THE END I WAS TOLD... THAT I WAS A MOSAIC.

THE CHILDREN WITH PROBLEMS ARE 'REPAIRED' THERE.

PLUS, THEY SAY THAT THE POPULATION OF THE CITY HAS BEEN DECLINING YEAR AFTER YEAR.

THIS DOG TOO HAS GROWN OLD AND STOPPED BEARING CHILDREN.

I REALLY WOULDN'T KNOW BECAUSE THEY SAY SHE'S REALLY OLD.

WOOF

...IS MOTHER STILL MAKING CHILDREN...?

THE POPULATION WOULD GROW IF WE'D BE ABLE TO BEAR CHILDREN.

SOMETIMES I THINK,

...I REALLY DIDN'T WANT TO OFFEND MOTHER WITH THAT.

AH,

THE WATER'S BAD, DISEASES ARE WIDESPREAD AND A NUMBER OF CHILDREN DIDN'T COME THROUGH EVEN WHEN WE WERE ENTITLED TO THEM

IN THAT FIVE-MEN-TOWN, I'M THE YOUNGEST.

OUR TOWN HAS ONLY 5 PEOPLE IN IT, INCLUDING ME.

I CAME FOR THE SAKE OF SEEING HOLY MOTHER.

NO ...

SHE'LL BE BROUGHT OUT TOMORROW ON THE BALCONY.

SAY ...

DID YOU COME TO THE CITY FOR THE SAKE OF LIVING HERE?

...

I SAW HER THREE YEARS AGO.

IF YOU CLIMB THE TEMPLE'S WESTERN WINDING STAIRS, YOU END UP IN THE DIRECT VICINITY OF THE BALCONY.

MOTHER IS AGING AS WELL, YOU SEE.

HER CHEST WAS WILTED.

SHE'S REALLY OLD.

THAT MOTHER HAS A BIG, ROUND CHEST ...

DID YOU SEE IT ...?

IS IT TRUE ...?

HOW SHOULD I GO TO SEE HER UP CLOSE AFTER I'VE GONE UP THE WINDING STAIRS?

CAN'T ENTER?

... BECAUSE THERE ARE GUARDS ...

THEN HOW?

THAT TIME I WAS ALLOWED AT THE CENTER BECAUSE I WAS ACCOMPANIED BY A DOCTOR.

ORDINARY CITIZENS CAN'T ENTER.

GO THROUGH THE CORRIDOR'S INNERMOST DOOR...

... AND THEN?

YOU CAN COME THROUGH THE UNDERGROUND PASSAGE, BUT ...

UNDER-GROUND PASSA-GE?

IF THE SUN IS OUT, IT IS.

I THOUGHT THE DESERT WAS HOT.

IT WOULD BE GREAT IF YOU'D LIVE IN THE CITY.

IN THE MORNINGS THE GAS ALWAYS GOES OUT.

COMPARED TO THE DESERT, THIS IS NOT SO COLD.

ARE YOU COLD?

YOU COULD ASK FOR ME TO COME LIVE WITH YOU.

YOU COULD BECOME MY NENJA.

YOU COULD GET THE CITY'S WELFARE OFFICE TO FIND YOU A HOUSE AND JOB YOU KNOW. THE OTHER PEOPLE OF YOUR COMMUNITY COULD AS WELL.

WHEN YOU'VE DONE THAT,

UNTIL I'VE SEEN MOTHER.

I DON'T KNOW.

SO, ARE YOU COMING AGAIN?

HOW LONG ARE YOU STAYING IN THE CITY?

I WON'T LIVE IN THE CITY.

Translator's Notes: A "Ninja" is a man who takes in an "troko" as a child and
They teach the young men useful things keep them in check while receiving sexual favors.
The original kanji can mean both "sensible person" and "trained person".

YOU, WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

GRIN.

MOTHER'S REALLY GOING TO SHOW HER FACE, ISN'T SHE.
ALL THESE PEOPLE CAME.

I'M SOR-RY.

POOM

THIS IS THE WAY. GO THROUGH THE UNDERGROUND PASSAGE AND WALK TOWARD THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TEMPLE.

CLIMB THE WINDING STAIRS TO COME OUT DIAGONALLY IN FRONT OF THE BALCONY.

WE'RE JUST PUTTING HER IN THE WHEELCHAIR.

I GAVE HER THE WAKE-UP INJECTION THREE HOURS AGO.

MAYOR.

WHERE'S HOLY MOTHER?

SFX: Shock/surprise

HEY!

OLD MAN?

WHO'RE YOU?

HEH.

HEH HEH. I... I GOT LOST.

IT'S FOR-BIDDEN TO STAND HERE! ARE YOU BLIND OR SOME-THING?

SFX: splash

WH...

SFX: splash

SFX: oooooh!

HOLY MOTHER!!

Bang

IT'S NOON!

Chime

HERE.

WHE-RE'S THE KEY?

HOLY MO-THER!

...

OUR MOTHER!

THE ONLY MOTHER!

HOLY MOTHER!

...

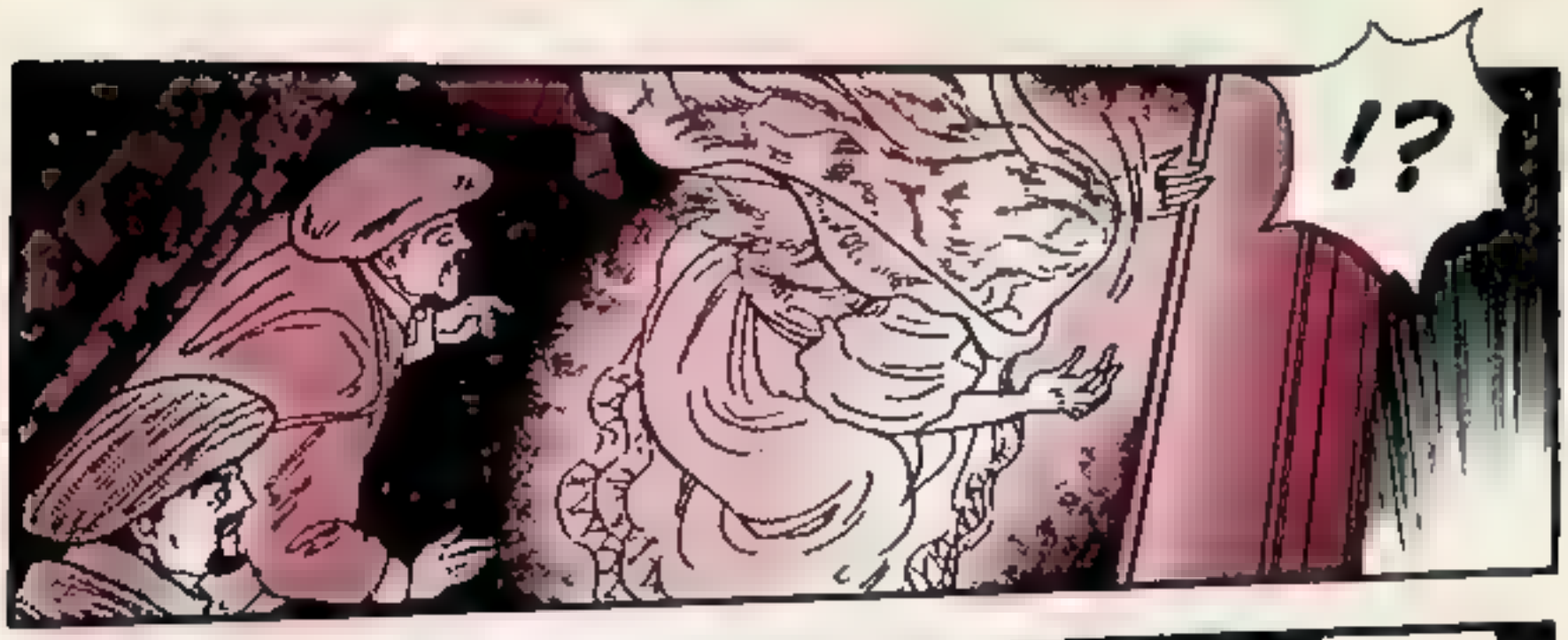
HOW... SHE'S AGED.

...
THAT'S MOTHER
...
OUR MO-THER.

THE MOTHER OF EVERY-THING.

THE MO-THER OF ALL OF HUMA-NITY ...!

CLONK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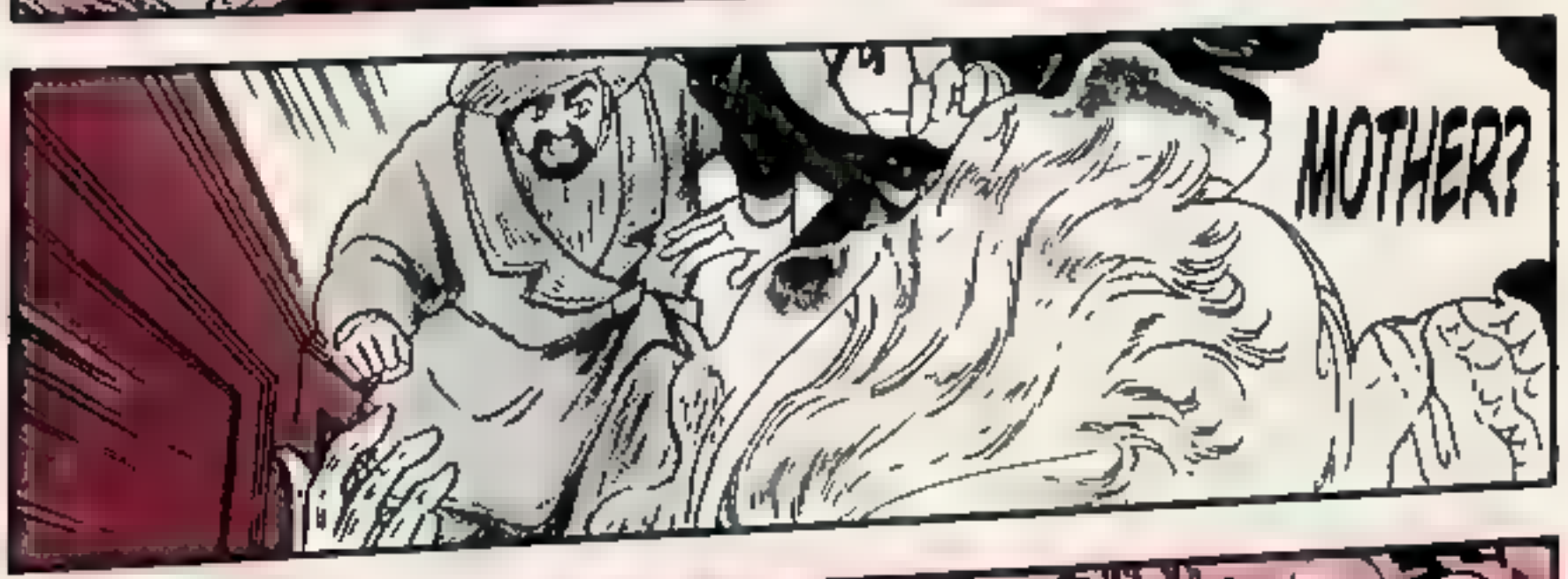

MOTHER?

Shake

Stuck
THE CURTAIN!

IT'S BE-CAUSE SHE CAME DOWN WITH A FEVER TODAY.

CALM DOWN! MOTHER HAS GROWN WEARY.

THE CIVI-LIANS!

Thud

MO-THER!

HURRY! TURMOIL WILL COMMENCE INSTANTLY!

KEEP THEM BACK!

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO MOTHER?

BRING MOTHER OUT!

Waah

FOR THE SAKE OF MO-THER, FOR THE SAKE OF THE CHILDREN,

LET US PRAY ...

WHAT'S WRONG WITH HER!

MA... MAYOR.

SFX: O oh.

HABAT, I WANT TO TAKE YOUR PLACE.

HURRY UP AND GO! YOU PROMISED.

I'LL PRAY FOR YOU LATER.

HOLY MOTHER HAS ONLY DESERTED HER OLD BODY!

THE SIGHT WE JUST WITNESSED WAS OUR MOTHER'S LAST GREETING TO HER SONS.

WHAT WILL BECOME OF US?

WHAT WILL BECOME OF US NOW?

...

MO-THER.

MOTHER WILL BE REVIVED!

AS IT'S ALWAYS BEEN UNTIL NOW!

THIS ISN'T A TIME TO GRIEVE!

A YOUNG MOTHER WILL ...!

I SEE, REVIVED ...

REVIVED ...

WHEN SHE HAS RESTORED HER BODY SHE WILL BE REVIVED!

MOTHER HAS AN ETERNAL SOUL!

SFX: Ooh.

A NEW MOTHER WILL!

REVI-VED!

REVI-VED!

...

SHE BECAME WITHOUT.

...NOT TO MENTION CHILDREN ...

I KNEW THIS DAY WOULD COME, SO I PREPARED MYSELF FOR IT.

BECAUSE MOTHER HAD GROWN OLD.

IT WAS AN EMER-GENCY.

YOU HANDLED THAT WELL.

MA-YOR.

THAT WAS INEVITABLE ...

WHAT HAPPENED TO HER?

MOTHER WAS TAKEN BACK TO THE CENTER FOR AN AUTOPSY

...MEYARD?

IMPOS-SIBLE ...!?

THIS WAS LODGED UNDER HER TONGUE.

A POI-SONOUS ARROW.

MAYOR... A SINGLE MAN WAS SHOT IN THE INNER TEMPLE'S UNDER-GROUND PASSAGE.

SHOT!?

IT WAS AT THE NO TRES-PASSING ZONE.

THEY KILLED THE TWO GUARDS OF THE N-3 DOOR.

THEN THEY TOOK THE KEY AND ENTERED.

IS HE BREATH-ING?

BARELY ...

WHERE!? TAKE ME THERE!

HE'S DEAD NOW.

DID HE HAVE ARROWS WITH HIM?

BE CAREFUL, THEY SEEM TO BE POISONED ARROWS.

SHOW ME HIS FACE.

WHEN YOU INSPECT THE MARKS ON HIS FOREHEAD,

WE'LL UNDER-STAND WHERE HE'S FROM.

ONE CAN ONLY ASSUME HE LOST HIS MIND.

...
WHY?

THESE ARE PRETTY TAT-TOOS.

HE'S PRO-BABLY A DESERT TRIBESMAN, DON'T YOU THINK?

WHY?

IN THE DESERT, AS WELL AS THE CITY.

R
i
n
g

WE'RE ALL PEOPLE.

WE'RE ALL SONS OF THE ONLY MOTHER.

THAT THEY WOULD ...

MURDER THE MOTHER?

...

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT ...!!

...
FA-
THER?

Ring
Ring
Ring

I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU'RE BUSY BUT,

I WANTED TO SPEAK WITH YOU A BIT ABOUT SOMETHING.

...
MIKAL
...?

FATHER, WHEN WILL MOTHER BE CHANGED AND REBORN?

IT'LL BE LIKE THAT ALL NIGHT TONIGHT.

THE CITY BELL HAS BEEN RING-ING INCES-SANTLY SINCE NOON.

...
COME
IN.

LOOK HERE.

WHEN MOTHER GROWS OLD SHE REVIVES AND BECOMES YOUNG AGAIN.

IN THE SCRIPTURES THE MOTHER OF THE BEGINNING, AS WELL AS MANY OF HER FOLLOWERS, FELL FROM THE MOON ON THE NIGHT OF A FULL MOON TOWARD THE DOMED CITY OF MONODOR.

THIS IS A RECORD OF THE SUCCESSIVE MOTHERS.

AND THEN SHE GAVE MANY CHILDREN TO THE CITY WHICH DID NOT HAVE THEM.

...THERE'VE BEEN MANY MOTHERS, RIGHT?

SO YOU SHOULD KNOW THESE THINGS.

YOU TOO, WILL SUCCEED ME NO MATTER WHAT.

FATHER IS HEALTHY, THE YEARS DON'T SHOW ON YOU.

I, TOO, AM ALREADY 32 YEARS OLD.

BECAUSE THE AVERAGE LIFESPAN OF A PERSON IN THE CITY IS 35 YEARS.

THE NAME OF THE MOTHER WHO DIED TODAY WAS GARBO THE 6TH.

SHE WAS 78 YEARS OLD.

SHE LIVED A LONG LIFE FOR A HUMAN.

THEN... FATHER WILL ALSO BE REBORN?

HERE, WHEN ONE EXCEEDS 30 YEARS OF AGE, EVERYONE STARTS AGEING NON-STOP.

AFTER YOU'VE BECOME MAYOR, YOU'LL BE THE NEW MOTHER'S FIRST MAN SO IT'S YOUR DUTY TO LISTEN WELL TO WHAT THE PEOPLE AT THE MEDICAL CENTER TELL YOU.

LISTEN TO ME! MIKAL. NOT MOTHER, NOT *ANYONE* GETS REBORN. IT CAN'T BE DONE!

HER NAME WILL BE HALLE-LUJAH.

I STILL DON'T KNOW WHO'LL BECOME THE NEXT MOTHER BUT,

THE NEXT MOTHER WILL BE THE SE-VENTH.

LIFE CAN BE STRETCHED BUT SOMEDAY YOU HAVE TO DIE.

MOTHER'S LONG LIFE IS THE RESULT OF THE CENTER'S MEDICAL SCIENCE, MEDICINE, ETC.

...HALLE-LUJAH?

DOZENS OF CHILDREN A DAY...?

...LIKE BE-FORE?

WILL HALLE-LUJAH BEAR CHILDREN...?

MIKAL, STAY HERE. YOU'LL SUCCEED ME SO THIS'LL BE YOUR WORK NEXT!

HAVE YOU DECI-DED?

MEYARD!

IS THAT HALLE-LUJAH'S STORY, MAYOR?

THEY RE-COMMEND THIS BOY.

THIS IS THE CENTER'S MEDICAL BOARD'S FILES.

HOLY MARKINGS ARE NORMAL IN HOLY PEOPLE.

...

WE DON'T KNOW, HE'S ONLY BEEN IN THE MEDICAL CENTER ONE TIME.

FOR HALLE-LUJAH TO BE A *MOSAIC* ...

HE'S A *MOSAIC*? HIS HANDS ARE BLACK?

CHITO ...

15 YEARS AT PRE-SENT.

WILL HE BE ABLE TO LIVE LONG?

RING

PLEASE GO AHEAD, I'LL CATCH UP LATER.

RING

RING

GRINJA?

T...

TELL HIM I'M NOT HERE!

EH?

CHITO?

WOOF.

CHITO! IT'S YESTER-DAY'S CUSTO-MER.

SHRIEK!

RUSH

SFX: bam.

WHY ARE YOU RUN-NING?

AH.

AH.

YOU KILLED MOTHER!

YOU REALLY KILLED HER!

YOU ASKED ME ABOUT THE WINDING STAIRCASE.

YOU ASKED ME ABOUT THE UNDER-GROUND PASSA-GEWAY.

NO-ONE BUT ME KNOWS ABOUT THAT, ONLY ME.

SFX: ring.

WE CAN STILL LEAVE SECRETLY THROUGH THE UNDERGROUND PASSAGE.

...WON'T YOU COME?

THE GATES HAVE BEEN CLOSED, YOU'LL BE CAUGHT.

WON'T YOU COME ALONG?

WE'LL LEAVE TOWN FROM HERE.

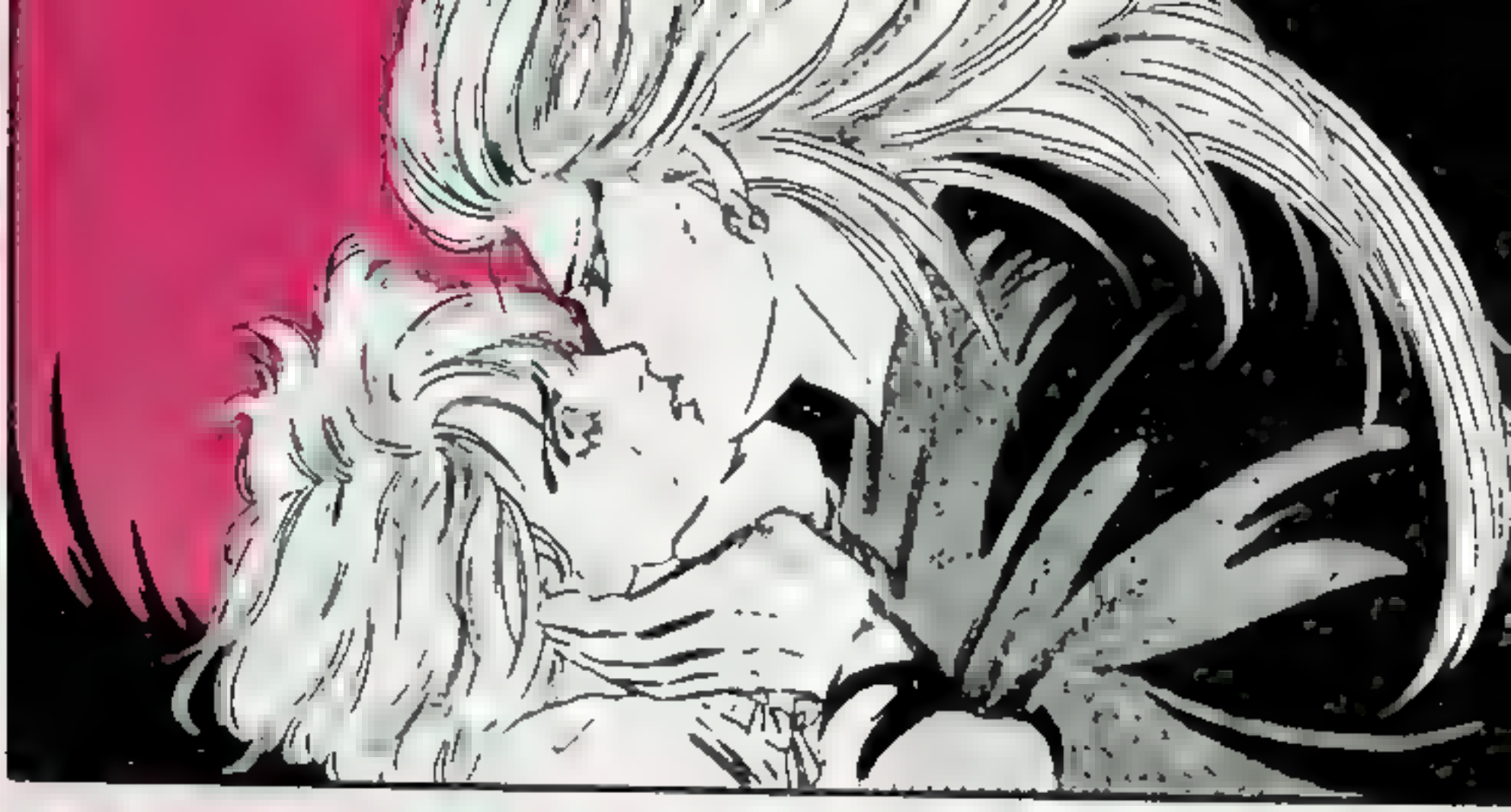
YOU'LL BE CAUGHT.

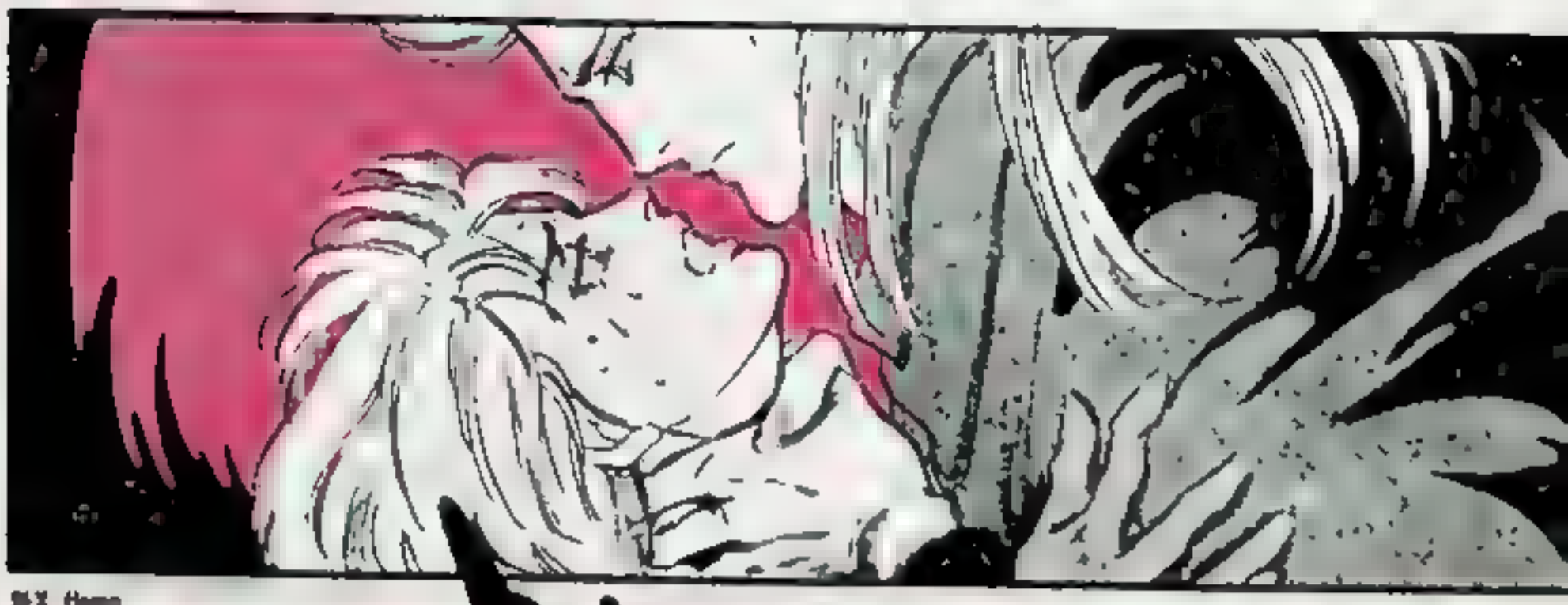
WITHOUT A DOUBT YOU'LL GET CAUGHT.

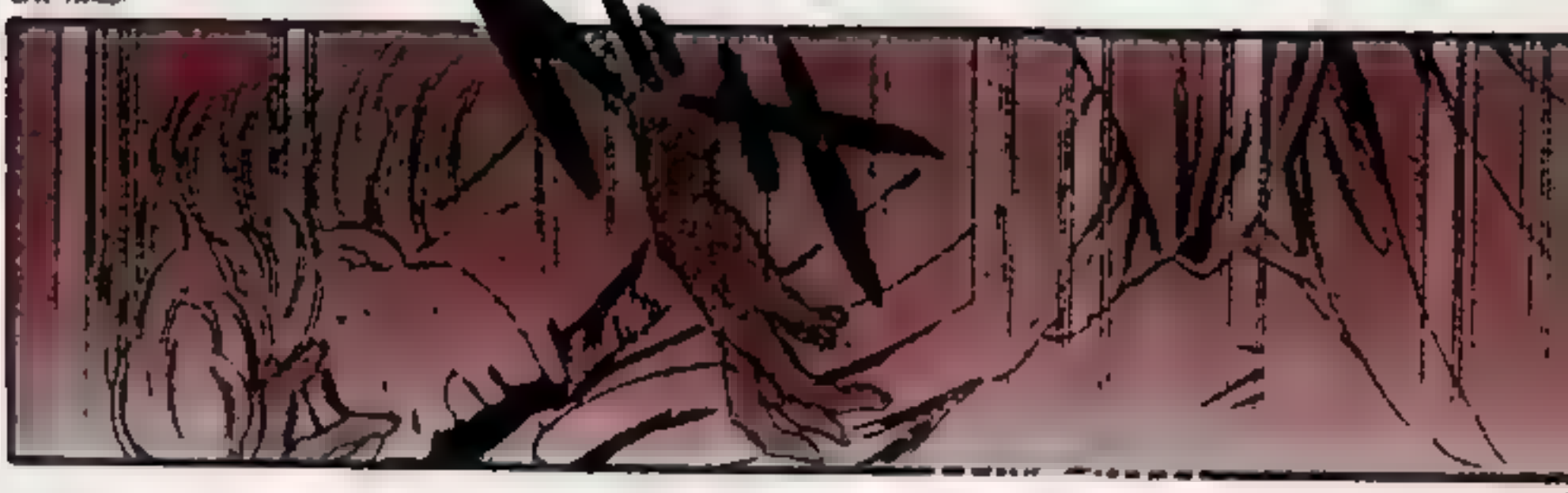
WHY?

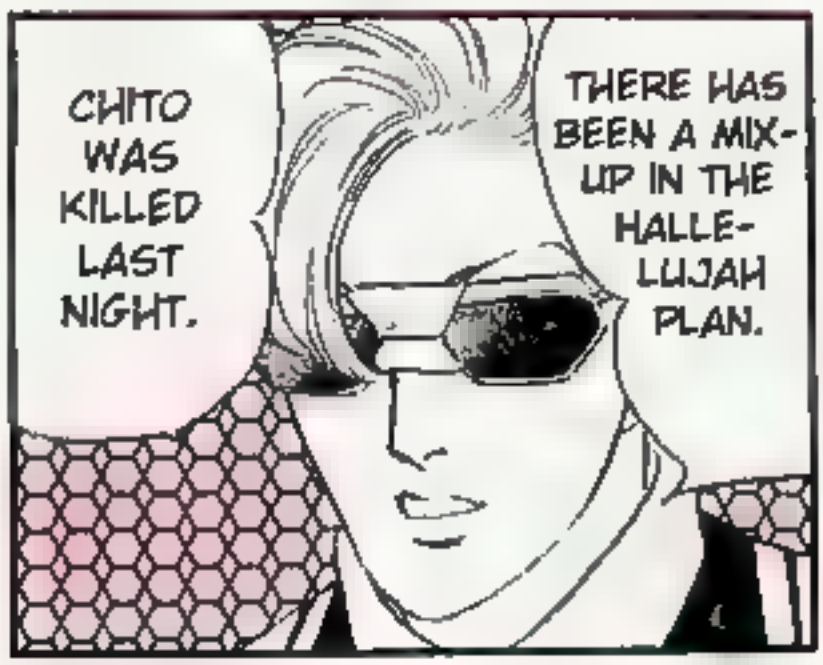
MOTHER ...

WH...



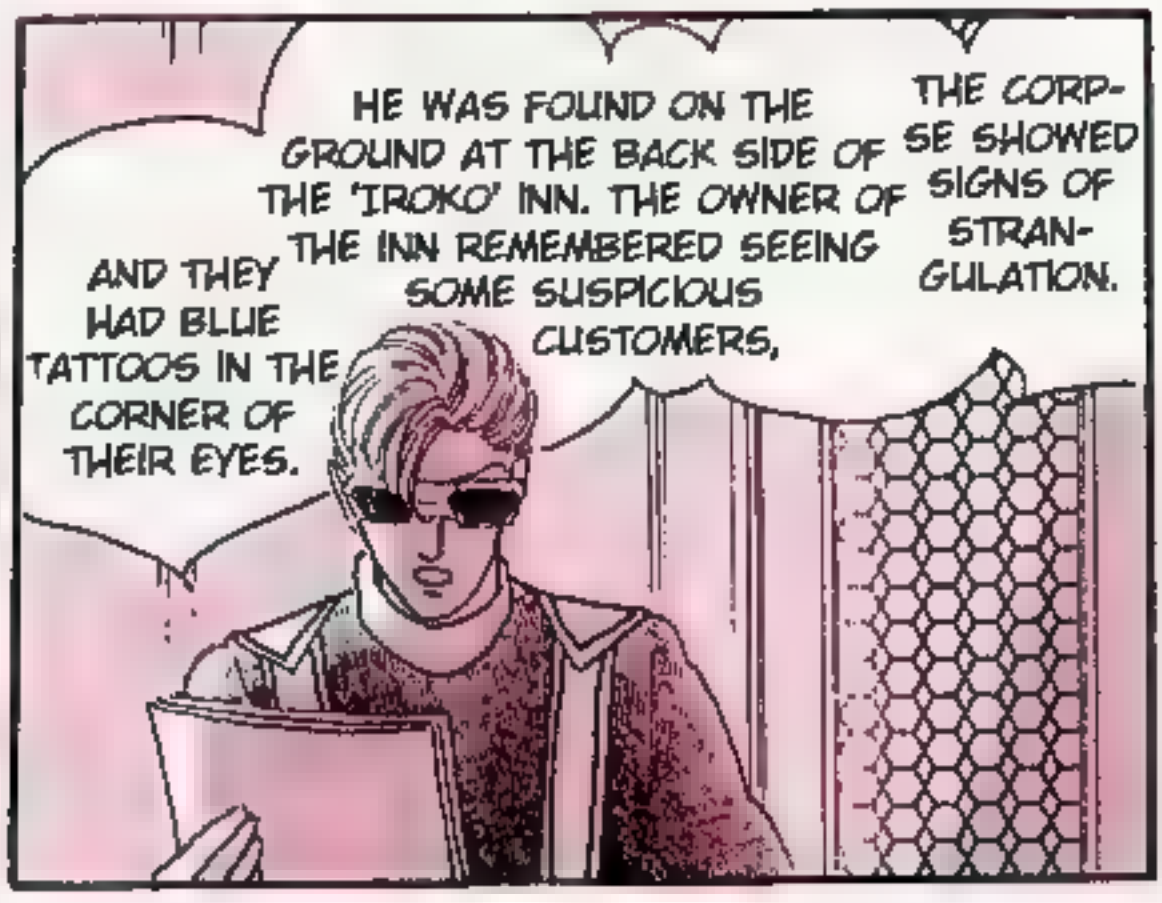





CHITO WAS KILLED LAST NIGHT.
THERE HAS BEEN A MIX-UP IN THE HALLE-LUJAH PLAN.

MA-YOR.

!!


AND THEY HAD BLUE TATTOOS IN THE CORNER OF THEIR EYES.
HE WAS FOUND ON THE GROUND AT THE BACK SIDE OF THE 'IROKO' INN. THE OWNER OF THE INN REMEMBERED SEEING SOME SUSPICIOUS CUSTOMERS,
THE CORP-SE SHOWED SIGNS OF STRAN-GULATION.

LET'S ASSUME THEY ALREADY ESCAPED FROM THE CITY.

IT LOOKS LIKE IT WAS A DELIBERATE THING, DOESN'T IT?

MOTHER'S MURDER WASN'T THE WORK OF LUNATICS.

COULD IT HAVE BEEN HIS COMPANIONS...!

CERTAINLY, THE MAN WHO KILLED MOTHER TOO, IN THE CORNER OF THEIR EYE...!

MAYOR, WE AT THE CENTER, WILL INVESTIGATE MOTHER'S MURDER.

ME-YARD.

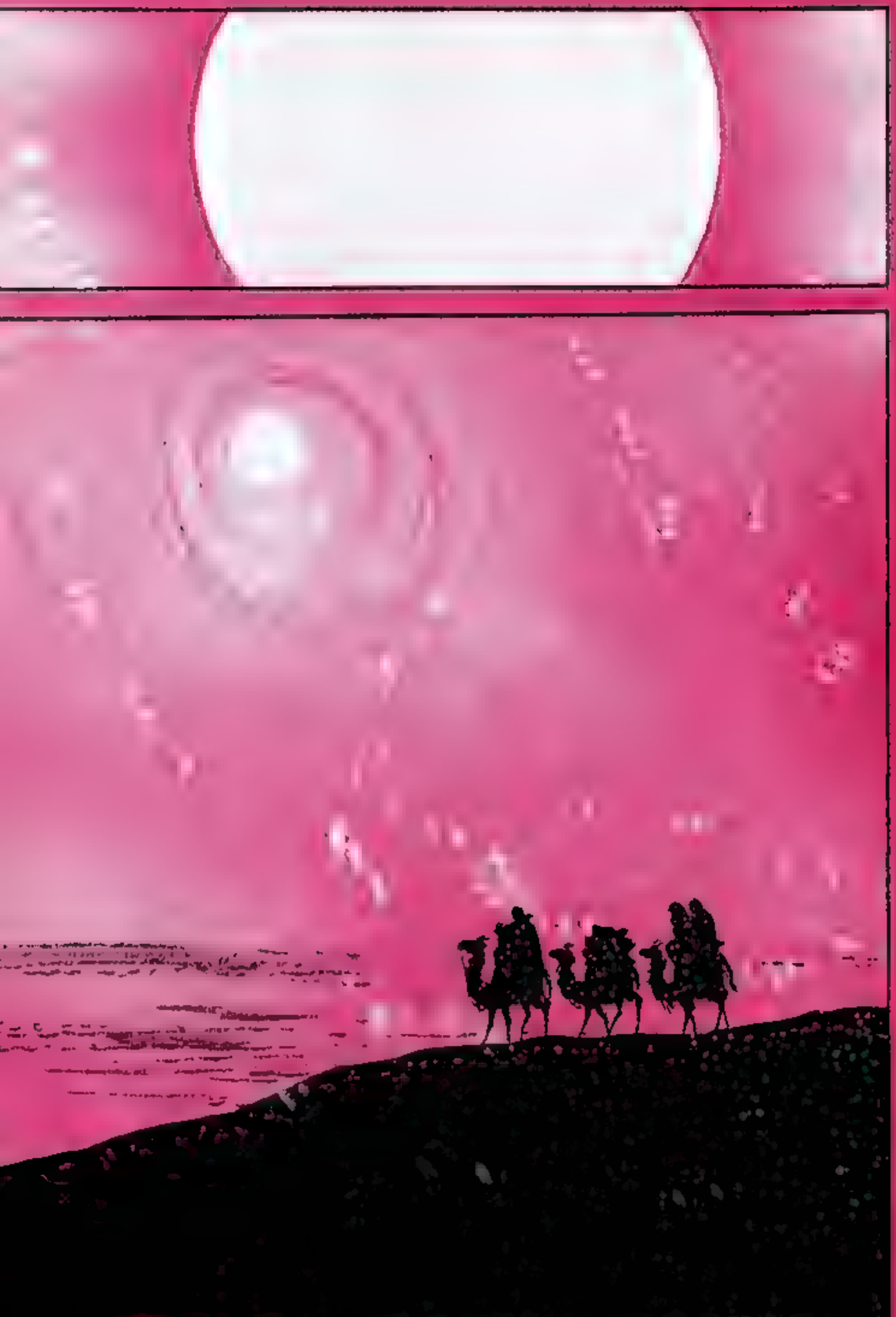
ABSOLUTELY.

ONLY A FEW PEOPLE WERE ON THE BALCONY WHEN MOTHER WAS KILLED. WE CAN KEEP IT A SECRET.

MATRICIDE AND THE LIKE ARE UNTHINKABLE THINGS.

IN THIS KIND OF BEE-TYPE SOCIETY WITH A SINGLE MOTHER AND MANY SONS,

THIS WILL PROBABLY BECOME A VERY INTERESTING INVESTIGATION.



LET'S TAKE A LOOK.

VULTURES .... THERE MUST BE A CORPSE.

STOMP

SFX: flap.

WHAT WAS IT?

...HE'S BREA-THING.

Magical

Magic Made

YOUR FAVORITE HAGIO MOTO CHARACTERS NEED YOUR HELP.

Calling for cleaners, typesetters, proofreaders, and translators for Marginal and A Cruel God Reigns

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COME WITH US AND SQUEE ON OLD SKOOL BL!

The Pink Panzer

"the major and...
...the director?"

(scandalous! :O)

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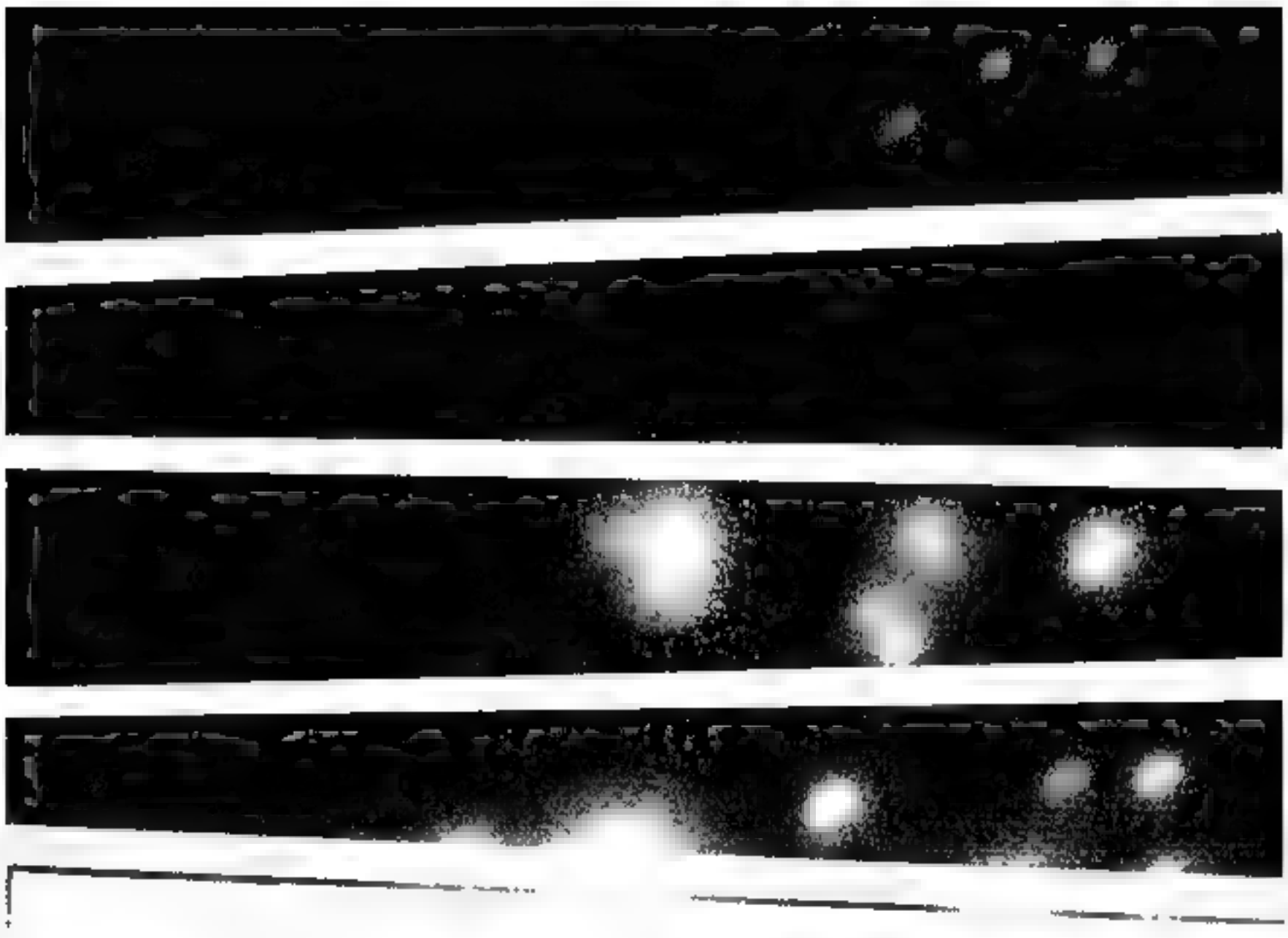
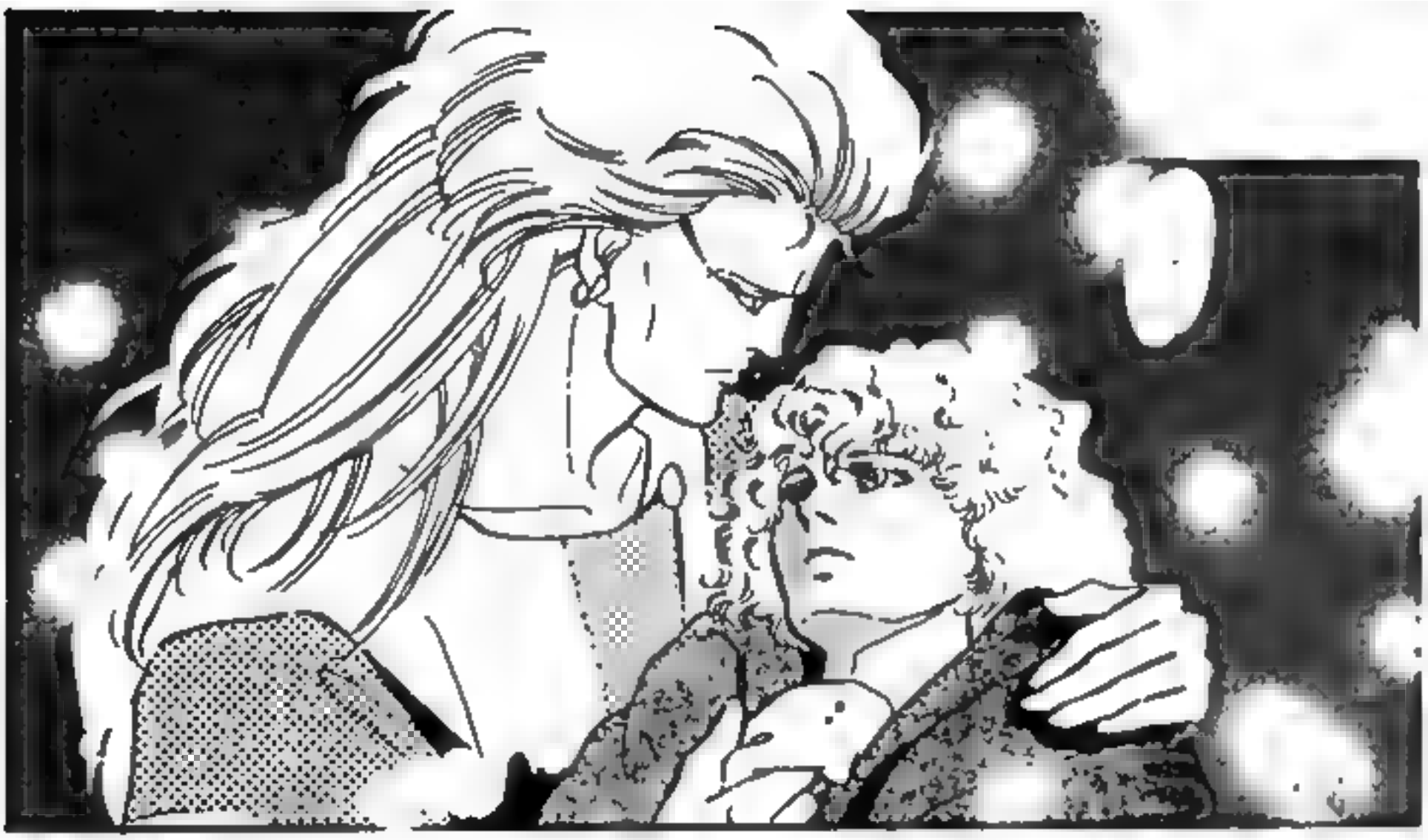
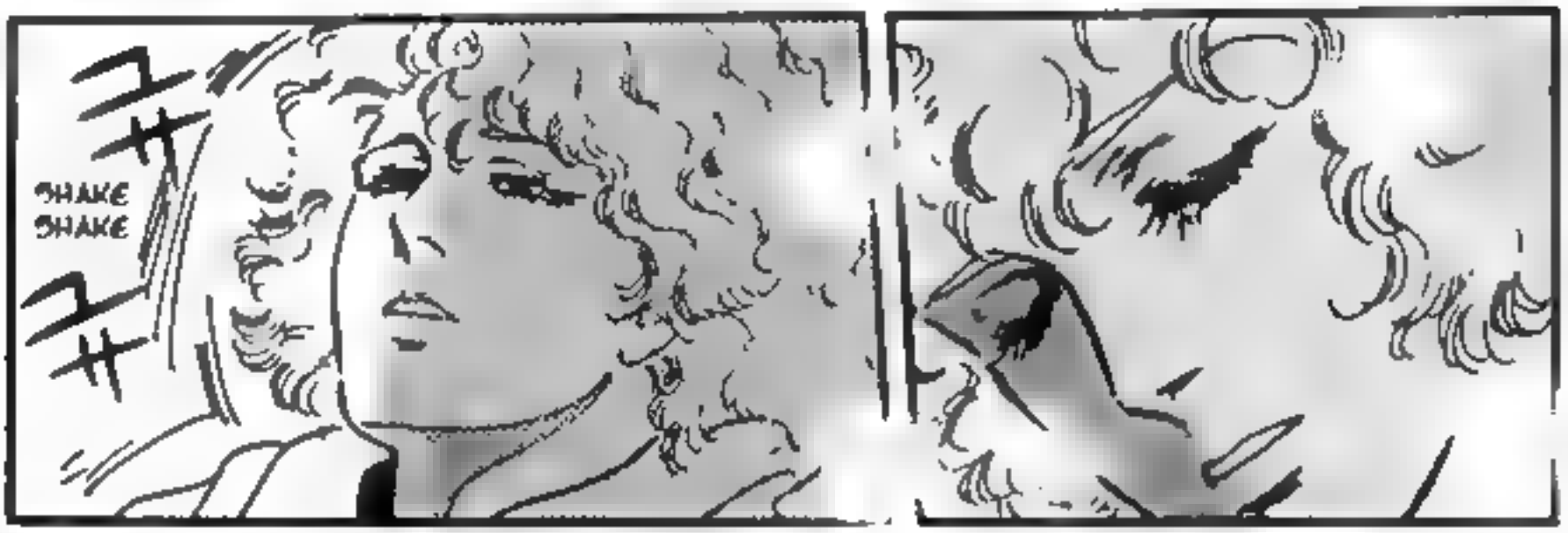
CHAPTER 1 ●
LOST CHILD






SHAKE
SHAKE

HERE'S SOME WATER
DON'T CLOSE YOUR EYES
HOW IS HE, GRINJA?

HE'LL BE FINE AFTER A NIGHT'S REST

HE IS A LITTLE DEHYDRATED

HE SEEMS TO LET EVEN HIS CAMEL GET AWAY

WHAT WAS HE DOING ALL ALONE IN THE DESERT?

PERHAPS

HE'S STILL AROUND THE AGE OF BEING AN IROKO

Trans note: means Kira is still an uke :p

WHEN IT COMES TO LOST CHILDREN IT'S FINDERS KEEPERS

WELL THEN, HE'S A LOST CHILD

PERHAPS WE CAN TRADE HIM FOR A GOOD PRICE WITH A SAND COW OR GOAT

LET'S TRY TO MAKE HIM HEALTHY AGAIN BY THEN

BY FOLLOWING THIS ROAD WE'LL REACH THE CITY OF KUROK IN TWO DAYS

SHHH

HOT

HOT

HOT

HOT

DANGER!... DON'T COME!.... RUN!....

RUN!

IT'S HOT

AH

AH

AH

A..AH

WHAT IS IT?

GET UP

WHAT HAPPEN-ED?

WHAT HAPPEN-ED?

VOI.....CE...

U.....

VOICES?

WHOSE?

HE ISN'T EVEN FULLY AWAKE

HE WON'T RUN YET

WHAT ARE YOU DOING GRINJA? HE'LL RUN AWAY!

WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

MAKE IT QUICK, WE'RE SETTING OFF!

WAH!

WHAT WAS THAT?

CRASH

WE'RE LEAVING. GET ON

APPARENTLY HE CAN'T MOUNT A CAMEL

....

SUCK ON THIS.

YOU'RE NOT USED TO TRAVELLING

IT'S SALT.

WHEN IT COMES TO DESERT PEOPLE, EVEN CHILDREN WHO STILL HAVE COLOUR CAN RIDE ANIMALS

HAS HE SAID ANYTHING YET, GRINJA?

REALLY, CITY PEOPLE KNOW NOTHING BECAUSE THEY NEVER LEAVE THAT DOME OF THEIRS

PERHAPS CITY PEOPLE DON'T KNOW HOW TO DO THAT

IT SEEMS THAT HE CAN'T MOUNT A CAMEL

HE'S A WEIRD IROKO, ISN'T HE?

NOW THAT YOU MENTIONED THE CITY, THERE'S NO SIGN OF ANY PURSUIT YET

SHUSH!

HE ALSO HASN'T GIVEN HIS NAME

NO, NOTHING

WHEN HE'S TALKED YOU'LL KNOW WHETHER HE'S FROM THE CITY OR THE DESERT

IT'S ALRIGHT, HE'S SLEEPING

Trans note: literally "You'll know if it's city words or desert accent"

じっと…
JITTER
TAKE OUT THE SALT
GIVE ME THE SALT
splish splash
ポキャン ポキャン
クルク stir

HERE

stir

startle

IT'S...

HOT

A..

WAH

SPLASH

CLATTER

SLAP

HE THREW THE COFFEE WHICH SPLASHED ALL OVER ME

WHAT HAPPENED?

HA HA HA

YOU KNOW THEY DRINK COFFEE BOTH IN THE CITY AND IN THE DESERT

HE DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT COFFEE AND GOT SCARED?

?.....
IS HE CRYING?

OF COURSE YOU'LL GET SLAPPED WHEN YOU WASTE YOUR FOOD

EVEN A CHILD WOULD KNOW THAT

WHY...?

PERHAPS HE BECAME A LITTLE WEIRD BECAUSE OF IT, I DON'T KNOW.

HE'S HAVING A HARD TIME WITH THE DESERT'S HEAT.

HE.....

I DIDN'T HIT HIM HARD ENOUGH TO HURT HIM

WHEN THOSE PURSUERS FROM THE CITY CATCH US

WE'LL BE KILLED

DON'T BE MOVED BY YOUR EMOTIONS

GRINJA

CAN'T HE COME TOGETHER WITH US?

....HABAT STAYED BEHIND AS THE CRIMINAL TO MAKE SURE OF THAT

.....TO TAKE THE BLAME AS THE PERSON WHO SHOT MOTHER

OF COURSE THEY WON'T PERHAPS THEY WON'T.

WILL THOSE PEOPLE COME AFTER US?

IF HE'S WITH US THEN, WE'LL ALL BE KILLED TOGETHER

IT'D BE BETTER FOR HIM IF WE SELL HIM AT THE BAZZAR.

HE PROMISED HE WOULD STAY AND KILL HIMSELF

YOU'LL BE CAUGHT

WHY DID YOU KILL MOTHER?

I WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO KILL THAT BOY FOR THE SAKE OF KEEPING HIS MOUTH SHUT

IF IT'D BEEN LIKE THAT .....

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER IF I'D STAYED

BECAUSE WE ALL LIVED LIKE WE WERE BROTHERS

GRINJA, LOSING HABAT, GRIEVING FOR HIM, THAT'S THE SAME FOR EVERYONE

I SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT MORE THOROUGHLY ABOUT IT

YOU'LL GET CAUGHT

THEY PROBABLY FOUND CHITO'S CORPSE A LONG TIME AGO

WHY DID YOU KILL MOTHER

MY COMPANION IS BEING FLUNG INTO THIS BECAUSE OF ME

HUNTERS LOOKING FOR ME IN CONNECTION WITH CHITO'S MURDER

HE OWNER OF THE INN KNOWS WHAT YOU DID

WHY DID YOU KILL MOTHER

BECAUSE

WHY

LATELY..... IT'S BEEN BAD, HASN'T IT?

I DIDN'T WANT TO HURT YOU WHEN I HIT YOU

....

ARE YOU COLD?

....

ARE YOU ....COLD?

AND LONELY, YOU STILL CAN'T GET AWAY FROM THAT

.....

YOU WERE PROBABLY LOST ALONE IN THE DESERT

...

CO..

..LD

!?

AH?

WAH

WAH

!!

BANG

OAU

WHAT ARE YOU DOI....

SFX : SLAP

IT'S NOTHING

WHAT'S THAT RACKET!

THAT WAY'S A DEAD END

EVEN WITH THIS MOON-LIGHT

CAN'T YOU SEE IT? ARE YOU NIGHT-BLIND?

I...

I

SFX CLATTER

YAH

IT WAS YOU WHO INVITED ME!

BLAM

WHAT HAPPENED?

YOU'VE GOTTEN REALLY LIVELY, HAVEN'T YOU?

HOHO--

WATCH OUT, HE BITES.

NOTHING

YOU GOT BITTEN?

HE SAID HE WAS COLD SO I TRIED HOLDING HIM

I DON'T KNOW WHY HE DID IT

FANGS?

UH

THIS IS UNUSUAL

THIS LOST CHILD HAS FANGS LIKE A CAT'S!

HE DEFINITELY ISN'T HUMAN, MAYBE HE'S A CAT!

WHAT KIND OF...?

SHOW ME!

HE DIS-LIKES IT

STOP IT!

LET'S UNDRESS HIM AND FIND OUT

HAS HE GOT A TAIL?

YOU GUYS GO SLEEP ALREA-DY

THAT'S BECAUSE GRINJA'S MOVES ARE UNSKILLFUL

TRANS NOTE: LITERALLY GRINJA'S METHOD

...

WE'RE SELLING HIM TOMORROW. PLEASE DON'T GET EMOTIONALLY ATTACHED TO HIM.

YOU'D BETTER STRAP HIM ONTO ONE OF THE CAMELS IN ADVANCE, GRINJA

....

UNDER-STOOD

BUT I THINK IT'D BE BETTER TO GAG HIM.

I DON'T KNOW WHY HE HAS FANGS,

HE MIGHT RUN NOW THAT HE'S GOTTEN BETTER.

...

SOB

WHEN A STAR FALLS ONE SOUL DISAPPEARS

TONIGHT MANY SOULS ARE MOVING AWAY

AND MOTHER DIED

CHITO DIED

HABAT DIED

THE WORLD QUIETLY DISAPPEARS

DURING THE TIME I CAN'T SLEEP

I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO SLEEP SINCE THEN

THE FEELING THAT EVERYTHING IS ENTIRELY OVER

DISAPPEARS

IS LIKE A HEAVY WEIGHT THAT CRUSHES ME ENTIRELY

AND COMPLETELY TURNS ME TO DUST

TO DUST

OI! WHAT KIND OF WARES ARE YOU TRADING?

HIM.

AN IROKO?

HOW ABOUT HERE?

YOU'LL NEED PROTECTION AGAINST DEMONS TO TRAVEL THROUGH THE DESERT

MOTHER OF THE CITY HAS BEEN DRIVEN INTO HIDING!

TRAVELLERS! LISTEN TO ME ALREADY

OH REALLY

DON'T TOUCH THE MERCHAN-DISE!

I'M SORRY BUT THAT'S TOO MUCH!

I WAS JUST ABOUT TO HELP YOU GET A BETTER PRICE

SHOO

TOUCH

LET ME TAKE A LOOK

HE'S GOT A GOOD FACE. IF YOU WERE TO UNTANGLE HIS HAIR IT'D BE NICE TOO.

HEY
IS HE FOR SALE?
... HE BITES.
WHY IS HIS MOUTH COVERED?

TAP

GRAB

TWIST

.....
I'LL TRADE HIM FOR A SAND COW OR CAMEL

YOSH, I'LL TAKE HIM.

GETTING A SAND COW FOR HIM WAS QUITE A GOOD PROFIT

BECAUSE THERE'S A LARGE NUMBER OF IROKO'S HIS AGE BEING TRADED

I'D LIKE A FEE FOR YOUR USING THIS SPOT

YOU WERE ABLE TO SELL HIM RIGHT AWAY

...

THEY'RE A GOOD LOT, WE CAN GO, GRINJA.

....
YES

I'M TRYING TO SELL MY SAND COWS AT THE WEST GATE'S WATERING HOLE, DO YOU SEE THEM?

PROTECTION AGAINST DEMONS!

DON'T YOU NEED PROTECTION AGAINST DEMONS!?

MOH

MOH

WE CAN TRADE THIS COW FOR ACCOMMODATION IN HIS HOUSE

THREE TOWNS AHEAD THERE LIVES AN OLD ACQUAINTANCE OF THE OLD MAN,

ARE WE GOING TO DRAG THE SAND COW ALONG WHILE WE TRAVEL?

GRINJA

I'M NOT GOING TO THAT TOWN ...

.... I

WHAT'S THIS?

YOU REALLY NEED PROTECTION AGAINST DEMONS FOR YOUR SAND COWS!

HAVE YOU CHOSEN?

THIS ONE.

YOSH, PLEASE PAY ME WITH MONEY

IT'S A FORM OF TRADING

TRANS NOTE: THE KANJI READS "DEMON" BUT THE KATAKANA READS "JIN" SO I'M USING DJINN :)

DJINN?

I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT THE DJINN

YOU HAVEN'T BEEN LISTENING

IT'S TRUE! YOU'VE ALL HEARD THE STORY OF THE MOTHER OF THE CITY DISAPPEARING, HAVEN'T YOU?

TRAVELLERS! FROM THIS MORNING ON THIS STORY WILL BE THE TALK OF THE TOWN

YOU'D DO WELL TO LISTEN TOO!

---IT ALL STARTED 5 DAYS AGO---

WITH MOTHER'S DEATH OVERSHADOWING THE DESERT, THE POWER OF A DANGEROUS DEMON HAS STARTED TO AWAKEN

THE MOON IS WANING MORE WITH EACH DAY!

TRANS NOTE. IT REALLY SAYS "SAND YACHT"
I HAVE NO CLUE WHAT IT IS. I THOUGHT CAMELS
WERE THE BOATS OF THE DESERT :P

THAT NO ONE DARES TO APPROACH; A DEEP, BLACK FOREST WHERE THE DJINNS LIVE --- DO YOU KNOW IT?

30 DAYS AWAY BY CAMEL AND 10 BY SAND YACHT, THERE IS A PLACE

FAR, FAR AWAY TO THE EAST

THAT FOREST

SUDDENLY CAUGHT FIRE!

AN UNCOUNTABLE NUMBER OF DJINNS FLEW IN ALL DIRECTIONS TOWARD THE SKY

DID YOU SEE IT?

THAT FIRE ...?

EVEN NOW IT'S PROBABLY STILL SMOLDERING

THE FOREST KEPT BURNING FOR AN ENTIRE NIGHT!

YOU SHOULD GET PROTECTION AGAINST THE DEMONS AS WELL

THIS COULD BE THE WORK OF THESE DJINNS TOO

SOME PEOPLE SAY MOTHER HAS DIED

IT'S A HORRIFIC STORY TO HEAR

NEWS ABOUT THIS PLACE FAR TO THE EAST TRAVELLED FROM TOWN TO TOWN

...

...

??

WHO KNOWS WHAT'LL HAPPEN NEXT!

BRRR

IT'S THE MACHINA....!

TEAMS NOTE: THE CROWD PANICKING

SFX: KWEH

SFX: BRRR

IT'S THE MACHINA!

HIEEE

IT'S THE MACHINA! HURRY OLD MAN!

HIDE!

SFX : BRRR

BRRRR
RRRR

RRRRR
DASH

IHYA------!!

HO-------!!

HYOOO---

HE HE

WHAT ARE YOU DOING!

YOU'LL BE CURSED!

WE'RE NOT AFRAID OF THE MACHINA!

COWARDS OF THE TOWN MARKET! RUN, RUN!

BRRRR

WHY SHOULD WE FOREVER TREMBLE IN FEAR FOR THE MACHINA? IT'S DESPICABLE!

BRRRRRRR

WAH
SLASH

SFX: SNAP

uu

THEY'VE TAKEN THE LOST CHILD!

!!

HYAAAAHOOO

BRRRR

clang clang

rumble rumble rumble

Trans note: I kid you not, that's the term used for motor scum :p And hige means beard/ moustache, so they were a punk gang of bearded guys

THE YOUNG MEN OF THE AREA HAVE GATHERED TOGETHER AND THEY'RE CAUSING A RUCKUS. THEY'RE CURSED!

THEY WERE THE HIGE HELL'S ANGELS

WHAT HAPPENED? JUST NOW... THAT GANG, WHO WERE THEY?

GRINJA!

OLD MAN!

IN THE OLD DAYS THEY WOULD HAVE RECIVED CHILDREN FROM THE CITY AND WOULD HAVE BECOME FATHERS ALREADY

BUT THEIR TURN DIDN'T COME. THEY TURNED AWAY FROM MOTHER AND NOW THEY ONLY CAUSE TROUBLE!

WHAT?

WHAT WAY DID THEY GO?

BUT THEY TOOK THE LOST CHILD WITH THEM. HE'S WITH THE GANG NOW

NO, I'M NOT

ARE YOU WOUNDED?

SHIT! I JUST BOUGHT HIM!

THEY EXITED FROM THE EASTERN GATE

RUN!

GRINJA!

GRINJA!

...
I WON'T BE GOING WITH YOU

I THINK THAT'D BE FOR THE BETTER

BECAUSE THERE'S ANOTHER ROAD THAT IS THE RIGHT ONE FOR HIM

.....
WE'VE TOLD HIM, WE'VE TAUGHT HIM EVERYTHING HE NEEDS TO KNOW

IT'S OK, LET HIM GO

FU--

WHERE DID THEY GO?

IT'S THIS WAY

THE HIDEOUT OF THOSE GUYS

YOU'RE WEIRD

.....

IT'S MY DUTY AS A SALES-MAN

WHAT? ARE YOU HELPING ME GET HIM BACK?

STEP

STEP

HEY YOU

WHAT DID YOU SAY YOUR NAME WAS?

GRIN

I'M ASHIJIN

ASHIJIN, THE ONE WHO ESCAPED DEATH

BOO-ZE!
A KET-TLE!
A POT!
WHAT LOOT DID YOU GET!?
I GOT A SCALE!
LET'S TRADE!
LOOK HERE! I GOT A LIVE ONE!
IT'S AN IROKO!
AN IROKO!
LET ME SEE!
OVER HERE!

startle

ENTER
THE
TENT

Marginal - Chapter 1

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The Pink Panzer

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IN UNITY, DEPRAVITY AND DEVOTION,

The Pink Panzer

Where do I buy
CHOCOLATE?

YOUR FAVORITE HAGIO MOTO CHARACTERS NEED YOUR HELP.

Calling for cleaners, typesetters, proofreaders, and translators for Marginal and A Cruel God Reigns

Contact us at [redacted] *for details*

COME WITH US AND SQUEE ON OLD SKOOL BL!

The Pink Panzer

WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

well, we do too!

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is in need of cleaners, translators, typesetters and proofreaders.

Calling for interested individuals, with or without experience to help us rescue Dorian from a sound trashing!

email us at pinkpanzer@ymail.com
to know how you can ~~fangirl~~ work with us.

CHAPTER 2

ASHIJIN'S CAVE

THERE THERE.

STAND PROPERLY NOW.

Ha

Ha

HE'S HEAVIER STILL!

Ha

Ha

TRY ADDING ONE MORE OF THOSE JEWELS!

LOOK LOOK THE BALANCE TIPPED!

HE'S LIGHT AFTER ALL!

THAT'S NOT EVEN THE WEIGHT OF THE THINNING END OF A COW'S LEG!

IT'S JUST... GENER-ALLY.

IT'S THE SKIN, THE SKIN WOULD...

I GET A FEELING YOU'RE TRYING TO BRING DOWN THE VALUE OF MY OBTAINED GOODS!

TRY SAYING THAT, TRY SAYING THAT.

OH!?

OH!?

THERE'S ONE THING I'M UNABLE TO STOMACH.

ABOUT HIM BEING AN IRO-KO,...

THE R SKIN IS TRANSPARENT TO THE POINT OF BEING ABLE TO SEE THE R VEINS.

THEY SHOULD BE A PURER SHADE OF WHITE.

TIMEWISE, AFTER AN IROKO HAS LOST ALL IT'S COLOUR.

IT DOES-N'T ADD UP!

THE ADULTS FOUGHT TO BECOME MY LOVER.

WITH THAT SKIN AND BLACK HAIR TO MATCH...

THAT WAS LONG AGO, LOOONG AGO.

THAT'S BECAUSE HE USED TO BE RICH.

pat pat

HE'S ..

TOO DARK TO BE A CHILD.

I WAS WHITE AS MOUNTAIN SNOW WHEN I WAS AN IROKO.

ORYAA, I GOT SOME OF MY COLOUR BACK WHEN I BECAME AN ADULT.

LOOK WHO'S TALKING.

TURNING RED WOULD BE A GOOD THING, WOULDN'T IT?

Wa Ha Ha

SURELY KISSING WILL MAKE THEM RED.

THE COLOUR OF HIS LIPS ISN'T TOO GOOD EITHER, THEY'RE TOO PALE

hmph, hmph

Aaaaa!?

DIT

A GOOD THING...

HEY!

HE REFUSED YOU, DIDN'T HE?

HAHA HAA.

Wa Ha aa Ha h Ha

THAT BA-BA-BASTARD.

He's got fangs!

HE BIT A HOLE IN YOUR THUMB!

IT CAN'T BE!

YOU, SHOW ME YOUR WOUND.

WHAT?

WHAT? HE'LL BITE!

OPEN HIS MOUTH.

DRW

SLIDE

OPEN UP.

IT'S TRUE.

WHAT KIND OF...

IT'S LIKE HE'S A LEO-PARD.

IS HE A CAT?

A CAT...

HIS HEAD ...

HOLD IT DOWN.

Hustle
...DIDN'T YOU HEAR?
...A CAT? ...OI?
SINCE MOTHER DIED...
THERE'S A RUMOR ABOUT DJINN BEING OUT IN THE DESERT.
HE WAS TIED TO A PILLAR.
HE'S ONLY AN IROKO.
DJINN...?
I'VE HEARD IT!
WHY DOES HE HAVE FANGS!?
ONLY FRONT TEETH AND MOLARS!
HUMANS DON'T HAVE FANGS!
IS IT THE DJINN'S CURSE?

YOU CAN PULL OUT THOSE TEETH!

WHA-AT ARE YOU SCARED OF!

clang!

TRUE! TRUE!

PULL-ING THOSE OUT...

WON'T SHIFT THE CURSE, RIGHT?

slip

THERE'S NOTHING THAT CAN BEAT US, THE BLACK MANTLE TRIBE.

¿¡!!O

clang

¡

swish

Shut up!
If you're too
scared to
watch you
better
get out!

A...
Ah...

swish

CLICK

IGNITE

ACK!

BURN

UUUUUU

Water!

Fool! That's BOOZE...

It's a curse!

We're doom ed!

Hyooo!

CLATTER

Fire!

Fire!

These filthy thieves!

Uwaaah!

It's a raid!

Come get me!

Don't run! There's only two of them!

I'm Ashijin from the Moon Cave, the one who escaped death!

Don't get involved brother!

Bastards!

He's the cursed one

...ESCAPED DEATH...

ASHIJIN ...

dash dash dash

MA--MU!

Where... is every-one...!?

OVER HERE!

PULL

cough

Every-one... save them...

Kira...

Where's Kira...!?

DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH! ASHIJIN WHO ESCAPED DEATH.
AT MOST...

CLANG
YOU CAN'T EVEN TAKE HOLD OF A DIFFERENT CAVE TO LIVE IN, ISN'T IT?

I WILL DO SOMETHING GOOD TO YOU.
GRIND

WITHIN THREE DAYS YOU'LL ...

THAT WAS AN AIR-BORNE POISON!

DIE FOR SURE.

spit spit spit

Urgh urgh

!

Gya- ah !

HIIIII—

THAT'S FOR TOUCHING ANOTHER PERSON'S IROKO!

GOHO.

THAT'S IT

YOU'LL GET CURSED IF YOU DO!

DON'T GET ANY-WHERE NEAR HIM!

DON'T TOUCH HIM!

DON'T APP-ROACH HIM!

YEAH.

LET'S GO!

YOU OK?

THERE'S NO ONE LEFT IN THERE.

CALM DOWN

Kira is inside!

I JUST SHOOK HIM UP A BIT.

DIE? HAHA OF COURSE NOT.

WILL THAT GUY DIE IN THREE DAYS?

spit

WHAT'S THAT ALL ABOUT?

SAVE EVERY-ONE...!

I DON'T KNOW, THE UPROAR MUST HAVE STIRRED HIM UP.

I'LL RE-MOVE THE BAD TASTE.

SOMETHING HAPPENED TO THE INSIDE OF HIS MOUTH.
FANGS?
BE CARE.-FUL! HE'S GOT FANGS.

DON'T SPIT OUT THE BLOOD.
IT'S TOO GOOD TO WASTE.
SWALLOW.
IT LOOKS LIKE THERE'S A LITTLE CUT IN HIS MOUTH.

JUST THEN, ...

HE WAS CALLING OUT SOMETHING LIKE 'KIRA.'

WHAT'S HIS NAME?

WE PICKED HIM UP IN THE DESERT TWO DAYS AGO.

... KIRA ...!

TWITCH

A LOST CHILD WITH FANGS?

KIRA!

... KI ..

RA ...?

HIS NAME, EVERY-THING.

HE CAUGHT A HEAT STROKE AND FORGOT EVERYTHING.

PICKED HIM UP?

HE BARELY SPEAKS.

HOOOO.

IT'S JUST AHEAD OF THOSE ROCKY MOUNTAINS.

MY TERRI-TORY.

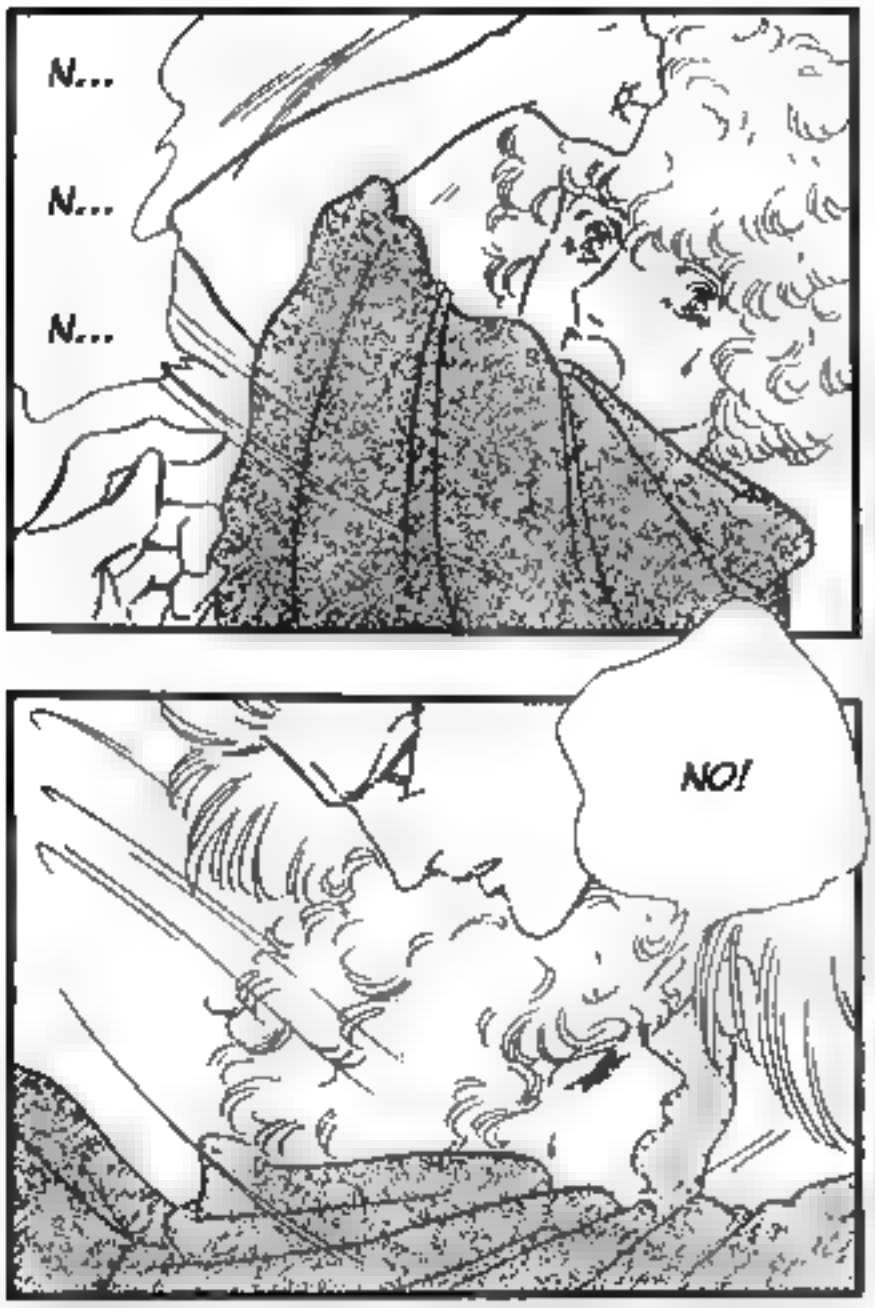
...

LET ME TAKE HIM.

THANK YOU

THIS IS AS FAR AS YOU CAN GO, I WON'T INVITE YOU.

COME KIRA!


N...
N...
N...
NO!

!
GO.
...

lift

Grinja.

YOUR POSSESSION BECAME MY POSSESSION FOR ONE SAND COW.

TODAY I GOT A BARGAIN.

GRINJA!

THEN... FAREWELL!

THE LIVING CONDITIONS ARE QUITE GOOD AROUND HERE.
IT HAS A SPRING TOO.
MY CAVE
THIS IS...
!!
GROWL

thud!

KUKUKu.

Uwaaah!

YOSH YOSH

WERE YOU HOUSE-SITTING LIKE GOOD CHILDREN?

PURR

PURR

HOW-EVER.

EVEN WHEN YOU JUST TAKE THREE STEPS OUT,...

YOU'LL BECOME THEIR FOOD,..

UNDER-STOOD?

WHEN YOU LEAVE THROUGH THAT GATE BY YOURSELF, WHEN YOU TRY TO ESCAPE.

THEY CAN ALREADY REMEMBER YOUR SMELL, IF YOU STAY CALM THEY WON'T DO ANYTHING.

YOUR ROOM'S THIS WAY, ENTER AND REST ON THE BED.

I'LL MAKE SOME TEA.

SPLASH

THAT'S DRINKABLE, DRINK IF YOU LIKE.

WATER...

SPEAKING OF THAT, HE CUT THE INSIDE OF HIS MOUTH, DIDN'T HE... THE MEDICINE... WHERE?

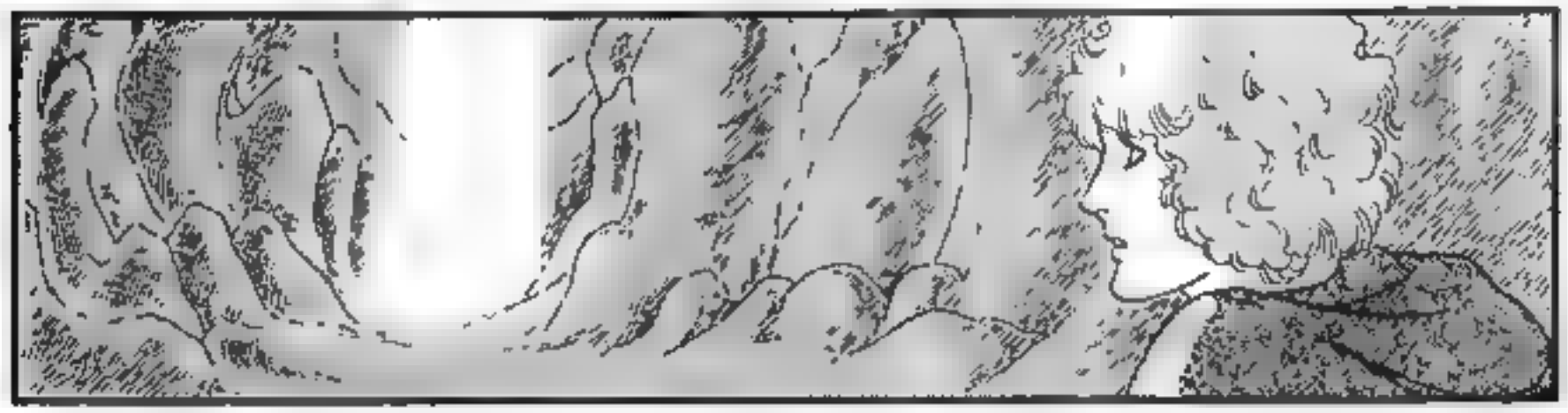
SPLASH

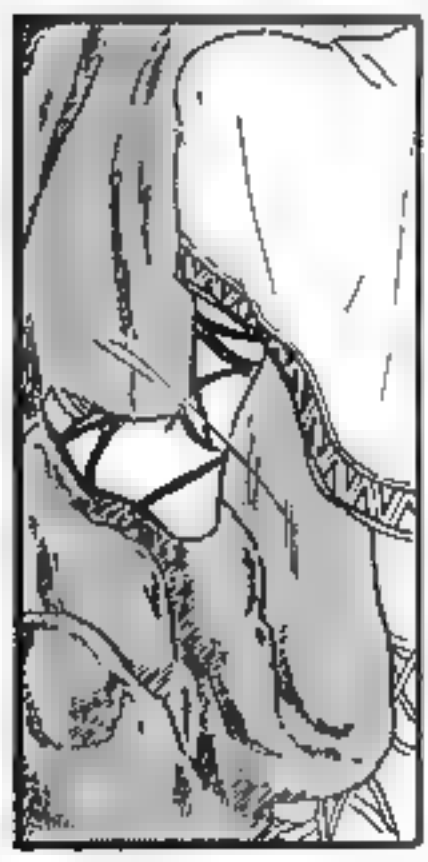
OH YEAH, DON'T DISTURB THE WATER...

KIRA?

tip toe

GRRRR





THROB

!

bash

SLAM

startle

Kyaaaaah!

CRUSH

GROWL

YU

What hap-pened!?

Kira!?

!

Kira!

slap

DON'T MOVE!

SMACK

THE PLACES WHERE THE BLACK DIRT RISES UP ARE NESTS OF THE BLACK SPIDERS.

LOOK CAREFULLY AT THE WALLS!

COME!

YOU CAN'T GET UP? DID YOU GET BITTEN?

THE SPIDERS HATE THIS SOUND.

pull

KEEP VERY STILL.

spit

Hey!

Shiver

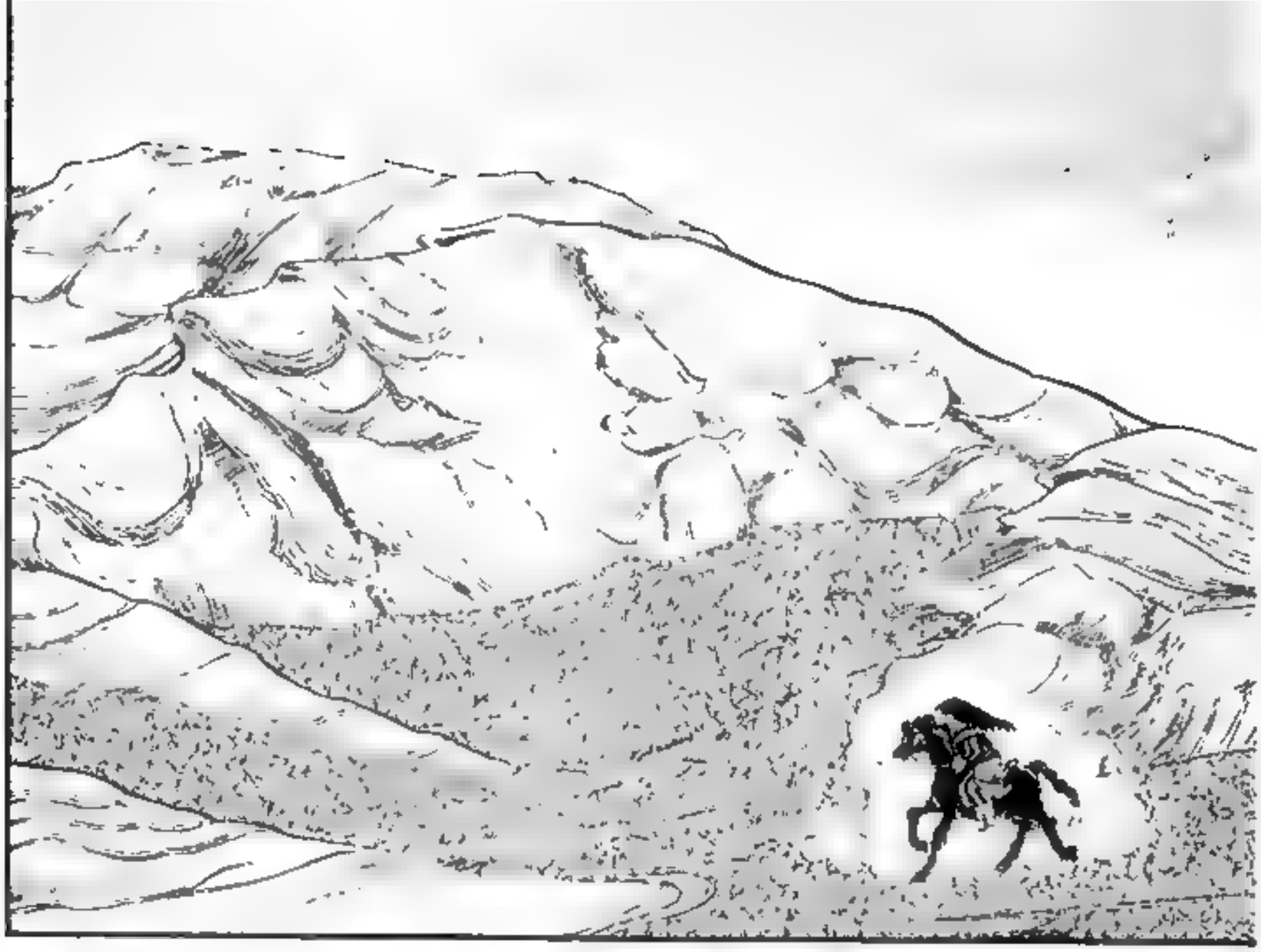
Shiver

THOSE ARE EFFECTIVE AGAINST THIS POISON.

I DON'T HAVE KONEA SEEDS!

ARE THERE STILL SOME SEEDS IN THE ROCKY MOUN-TAINS?

DASH



IT'S
USELESS
IT'S
OVER

Why are you here?

surprise

...

IS THIS YOUR PART OF YOUR TERRITORY AS WELL?

... IS ME BEING HERE BAD?

I'VE GOT SOME "RIGU", WE USE THAT IN MY VILLAGE.

YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T BRING ANY KONEA SEEDS THAT CAN BE USED AS ANTIDOTE, DID YOU?

I'LL INVITE YOU TO MY CAVE.

...

IT DOES.

DOES THAT WORK WELL?

THE IROKO I BOUGHT WAS BITTEN BY A POISONOUS SPIDER.

WHY DO YOU NEED THE ANTI-DOTE?

IT'S KIRA.

THE LOST CHILD?

BECAUSE OF THAT STRANGERS CAN'T APPROACH IT.

YES.

THEY OFTEN LIVE IN SUCH DANGEROUS PLACES, DON'T THEY?

THERE WAS A NEST OF BLACK SPIDERS INSIDE.

THIS WAY

IT'S A VISITOR, DOWN!

GRRRR

DO YOU HAVE HOT WATER?

I'M BOILING SOME RIGHT NOW.

MAKE IT HOTTER THAN BOILING.

THAT AND SOME LIGHT.

...EVEN AN ADULT COULD DIE FROM THIS IN HALF A DAY.

WHAT ABOUT THE MEDICINE?

I DON'T KNOW ...

HOW IS HE?

...DO YOU NEED A HAND?

GRIND THIS AND BOIL IT IN HALF A CUP OF WATER FOR ABOUT 2 HOURS.

THE POISON IS CIRCULATING IN HIS BODY, HE DOESN'T HAVE THE STRENGTH TO SWALLOW.

THIS IS A MEDICINE THAT GETS ABSORBED THROUGH THE MUCOUS MEMBRAME OF THE MOUTH

DID HE DRINK IT?

...

scrape

HIS LOWER BODY IS PARALYSED BY THE POISON.

IT'S NOT

HEY, ISN'T THAT HOT?

I'M GOING TO CUT IT WITH A KNIFE TO SUCK OUT THE POISON.

HOW'S THE WOUND?

AFTER STERILIZ-ING THE WOUND, ...

I'LL APPLY THE STICKY, OILY SALVE.

PLEASE STERILIZE THIS KNIFE WITH FIRE.

YOU SHOULD EAT HALF OF THIS.

Melt

WHAT'S THIS?

BECAUSE IT'S BITTER YOU CAN WRAP IT IN CHEESE BEFORE SWALLOW-ING IT.

MY EYES?

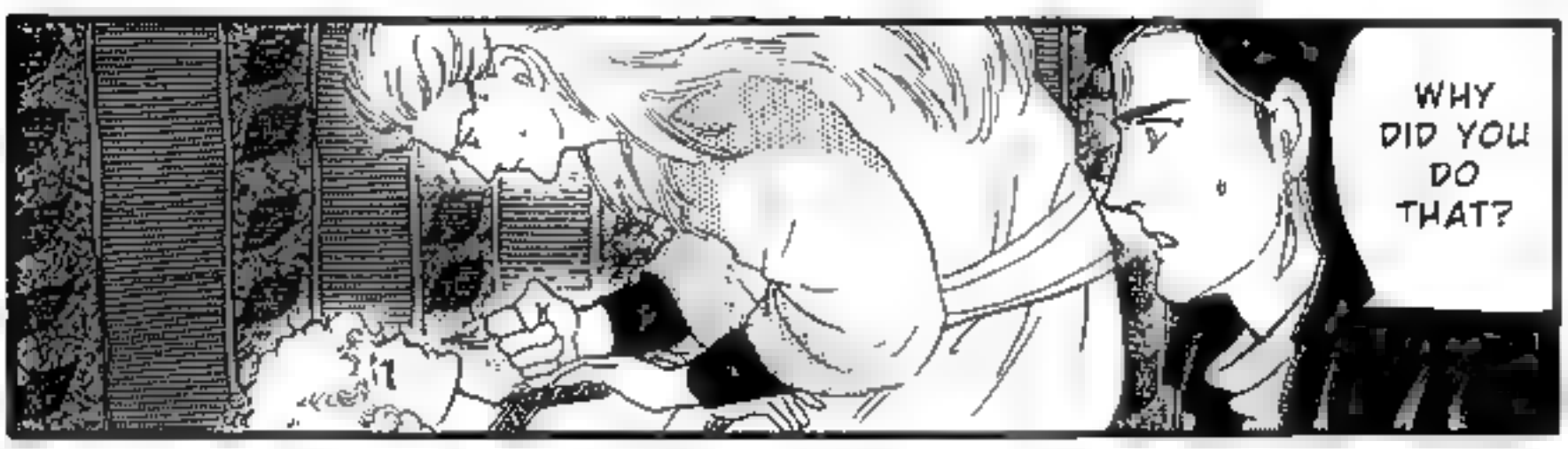
UNLESS YOU GET RID OF THE POISON IT'LL REACH YOUR EYES IN TWO TO THREE DAYS.

YOU PROBABLY SLURPED UP POISONOUS BLOOD.

?

BANG

gulp


WHY DID YOU DO THAT?

WE CON-TINUE.

NOW WHAT?

HIS PULSE STOPPED.

... A HEA-LER ...

I BE-LONG TO A VILLAGE OF DOCTORS.

YOU... ARE YOU A DOCTOR?

IF HE SURVIVES THE NIGHT.

DID YOU SAVE HIM?

HIS HAIR AS WELL.

HELP ME GET THAT OFF.

WIPE HIS ENTIRE BODY WITH WARM WATER AND CLOTH.

HIS SWEAT SMELLS FUNNY.

AND THAT BROWN-ISH CO-LOUR...

PRE-PARE A NEW CLOTH.

THE SWEAT WILL COME OUT LIKE THIS TWO TO THREE TIMES MORE BEFORE MORNING.

THROW IT AWAY.

THE CLOTHES TURNED PITCH BLACK.

ITS EDGES ARE FULLY COATED WITH A SMELL THAT THE SPIDERS DISLIKE.

THEY LIVE DEEP INSIDE THE ROCK HOLE.

nudge

... WHY DON'T THE BLACK SPIDERS COME THIS WAY?

THE TOWN'S CLOSE BY.

HAVE YOU ...

LIVED HERE FOR A LONG TIME?

WHAT'S UNUSUAL ABOUT YOU?

WITH-OUT EVEN CHILDREN OR A LOVER, ONLY READING BOOKS.

BEFORE ME MY UNCLE LIVED HERE.

THEY CAN STAY IN THIS CAVE.

SOMETIMES UNUSUAL PEOPLE IN TOWN ARE TOLD TO GET OUT.

I ESCAPED DEATH ONCE.

MY FORE-HEAD WAS SPLIT IN TWO.

AROUND THE TIME WHEN I WAS STILL A COLOURED CHILD, MAYBE 7 OR 8 YEARS OLD

I FELL FROM A CLIFF AND WAS SEVERLY WOUNDED.

AT THAT EXACT TIME FOR WHO KNOWS WHAT REASON, A SMALL MACHINA WAS HOVERING ABOVE THE TOWN.

IT LAN-DED.

YOU'RE LUCKY TO BE ALIVE.

KU KU KU

MY BRAIN ALMOST CAME ROLLING OUT, IT'S TRUE.

It lan-ded?

The machi-na?

...

THEY PLACED ME IN A SILVER-COLOURED BOX AND FLEW AWAY.

PEOPLE OF THE CENTER CAME OUT.

BUT, I RETURNED TO LIVING WHEN THE CENTER DOCTORS HAD OPERATED ON ME.

THAT'S A LIE, ISN'T IT? A MADE UP STORY.

THE ENTIRE VILLAGE THOUGHT THAT I WAS DEAD AND THAT THE CENTER HAD TAKEN AWAY MY CORPSE.

THAT'S IT

MEDICAL CENTER

I STAYED IN A ROOM OF THE CENTER... A HOSPITAL WARD.

... HALF A YEAR ...

AFTER SIX MONTHS MY FATHER WAS CALLED TO THE CITY.

FOR THE SAKE OF ACCOMPANYING ME BACK TO THE TOWN, HE WAS STUNNED.

MY OWN GRAVE WAS SHOWN TO ME.

DESPITE THAT, I WAS A CHILD AND I WAS RAISED BY THE TOWN LIKE A TREASURE.

SAYING THAT TOUCHING ME WOULD MAKE THEM SICK OR WOUND THEM.

EVERY-ONE FOUND IT EERIE,...

WHEN MY COLOUR STARTED TO FADE THE WOUND FROM CRACKING MY FORE-HEAD STARTED TO APPEAR LIKE A NEW MOON.

FATHER LEFT ME WITH HIS YOUNGER BROTHER WHO WAS LIVING IN THE CAVE.

I ASKED FOR MY UNCLE TO BECOME MY LOVER BUT I WAS REFUSED.

UNCLE WAS UNUSUAL. BUT HE LOVED ME LIKE I WAS HIS SON... UNCLE'S DREAM WAS...

VERY STRAN-GE...

He was looking for a wo-man

A WOMAN?

"HUMANS THAT BEAR CHILDREN."

MOTHER?

Im talking about a person who bears a child after a coupie has joined together

Mother isn't a "Woman"

-- But that's the way of animals humans are different from beasts

A female?

TWO YEARS AGO ...

HE DIED

HE WAS AN UNUSUAL PERSON.

THAT'S TRUE.

YES...

SHOULD I WIPE OF HIS SWEAT?

IT ..

IT... ISN'T

... ISN'T ...

LIKE THAT

HE'S DELIRI-OUS.

NEXT... CHECK-POINT...
THAT'S IT...

YELLOW RIVER ... TIGRIS INDUS
READY..... FOUR LARGE CIVILIZA-TIONS... RECITING ...

BEAR (CHILDREN)... INCREASE.. THE ORIGIN OF THE LIGHT... ADAM AND EVE ARE... HERE IS... EDEN...
CHAPTER 8... THEN .. NOTHING... NEW RELIGION... MOTHER...

.. NEXT ..

IT'S BECAUSE OF THE FEVER.
HE'S TALKING A LOT.

WESTERN CALENDAR 2999...

COLOMBUS... EGG. MAGELLAN... WENT... HOUSTON... OCCURENCE...

UN...

YOU MAY SLEEP.

HOW'S THAT... I REPEATED IT .. INPUT... ENOUGH... MAY I SLEEP...

KOLON IS EGG FOR MAGELLAN?

2999 ..?

WHAT WAS THAT ...?

I DON'T KNOW...

HE'S DELIRI-OUS...

...

Marginal - Chapter 2

translator: ettin_trix

qcer: staff

cleaner: engiel

typesetter: engiel

The Pink Panzer

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IN UNITY, DEPRAVITY AND DEVOTION,

The Pink Panzer

Where do I buy
CHOCOLATE?

"the major and...
...the director?"

(scandalous! :O)

The Pink Panzer

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KIRA...

WHERE'S KIRA?

CAN YOU HEAR ME?

KIRA

ANSWER ME...

ARE YOU SLEEPING?

HOW IS HE?

THAT'S RIGHT YOU'RE SLEEPING.

. . SLEEPING AND DREAMING.

... HIS BREATHING SETTLED...

JUST LIKE ALWAYS...

HE'LL PROBABLY SLEEP FOR A WHILE LONGER...

CHAPTER 3

2999 - THE PRESENT

...TH S DEF- NTELY
THAT'S RGHT S
WHAT KIRA S SEE NG
A DREAM
HE'S...
... ALRIGHT NOW...
... THAT'S TRUE I GUESS...
HOW ABOUT YOU GO TAKE A REST NOW, GRINJA?
YOU'VE GOT DARK CIRCLES UNDER YOUR EYES.
LOOK AT THAT. THE SUN ROSE WHILE WE WERE WAITING. ...
IT'S TO THE RIGHT OF THE ROCKS AT THE ENTRANCE.
OPPO- SITE THE STABLES.
WHERE'S THE TOILET?
... WHY DON'T WE REST IN SHIFTS?

HOW THE FOG JUST RISES UP LIKE THAT HERE.

IT'S PECULIAR, ISN'T IT...

YOU DON'T GET SICK FROM THE WATER?

THE ONES TO THE WEST CAN EVEN BE USED TO KEEP THINGS COLD.

THERE'RE QUITE A NUMBER OF SMALL ANIMALS LIKE SNAKES, RODENTS AND EVEN LIZARDS LIVING IN THE TURF OF THE SOUTHERN CAVERNS.

THE FOG OFTEN RISES JUST LIKE THAT BECAUSE THERE'S AN UNDERGROUND WATERWAY

THE CAVES AROUND HERE MAKE FOR GOOD LIVING QUARTERS

LIKE FROM A WATER MOLD? THERE AREN'T ANY. THE QUALITY OF THE ROCKS IS GOOD, AS IS THE DIRECTION OF THE WIND

WELL THEN, TAKE YOUR REST.

SURE.

PLEASE WAKE ME UP WHEN YOU WANT TO SLEEP.

[illegible]
BE ABLE TO FALL ASLEEP?

GRNJA ?

DID I WAKE YOU?

... IT'S NIGHT...?

THAT'S RIGHT, YOU'VE SLEPT THE ENTIRE DAY.

YOU SLEPT LIKE A LOG, YOU MUST HAVE BEEN REALLY WORN OUT.

... GRNJA ...?

YES.

THAT'S OK, RIGHT?

IT SEEMS LIKE HE'S THIRSTY SO I'M GIVING HIM WATER.

HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

HE'S THE DOCTOR I CALLED.

...HE PULLED THROUGH.

... WHERE DID YOU COME FROM...

THAT'S BECAUSE OF THE FEVER.

IT'LL GET BETTER SOON.

... MY ARMS AND LEGS HURT.

I KNOW.

I WAS THE ONE WHO BOUGHT HIM.

DON'T TALK TO HIM, HE ISN'T YOURS.

No.

Then I'll stuff it in your mouth!

NO.

DRINK!

sfx: refused

WHAT ... ARE YOU DOING?

BECAUSE ALL HIS MEDICINE IS BITTER.

IT'S SMALL A BEEHIVE BUT THE MADE BY HONEY- MOUNTAIN COMB'S BEES. SWEET.

WHAT DID YOU FIND?

YOU WERE THE ONE WHO SAID THAT, I WAS JUST TRYING TO GET HIM TO DRINK HIS MEDICINE.

YOU ACT LIKE YOU'RE GOING TO RAPE HIM.

HE'S ILL YOU KNOW.

I KNOW.

THAT'S MY IROKO, YOU KNOW.

sfx: squeeze xZ

sfx. squeeze

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?

sfx. splash

He

He

I BOUGHT AN IROKO JUST SO THAT I COULD HAVE HIM DO THESE THINGS.

sfx. sigh

NOBODY'S EVER DONE MY LAUNDRY FOR ME BEFORE.

THERE WERE 5 PEOPLE IN MY VILLAGE, AND I WAS THE YOUNGEST ONE.

THUS WASHING EVERYONE'S LAUNDRY BECAME MY TASK.

sfx: snap

HOW OLD ARE YOU, ASHIJIN?

THAT'S AN EASY JOB, WELL-SUITED FOR THE ELDERLY.

sfx: snap

EVEN THOUGH I'M A GUEST, I'M HELPING TOO, AREN'T I?

WITH THE BEANS.

I'M OLDER THAN YOU THEN, I'M 21.

19.

I'LL DO THE BEANS AND YOU'LL DO THE LAUN-DRY.

THAT'S SETT-LED, THEN.

sfx: squeeze

HE'S PROBABLY IN THAT COOLER PLACE OVER THERE.

WHERE'S KIRA?

KIRA!

HE BECAME QUITE LIVELY, DIDN'T HE?

HIS FEVER BROKE AS WELL.

I'LL DRY YOU OFF SOON.

sfx: splash

'S COLD!

THEY'LL PROBABLY DRY QUICKLY.

LET'S TRY TO GET THESE OUTSIDE.

sfx: flap x3

WITH THIS WIND...

... IT'LL BE DRY IN LESS THAN AN HOUR.

HOW'S THE LAUNDRY?

PANT.

PANT.

PANT.

PANT.

YOU'RE STILL OUT OF BREATH, AREN'T YOU?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO HURRY.

AS EXPECTED, CLIMBING THE MOUNTAIN WORE HIM OUT. BUT HE WANTED TO SEE IT.

DID HE FALL ASLEEP?

I KNOW, HE'S YOUR IROKO.

... IT'LL TAKE SOME TIME BEFORE HE BECOMES ATTACHED TO ME.

MOTHER'S BEEN DEAD FOR 10 DAYS.

13 DAYS UNTIL THE FULL MOON.

THIS MONTH IS THE MONTH OF WIND.

A NEW MOON, ISN'T IT.

... IT'S ALREADY...

LEGENDS?

NO.

DO YOU SMOKE?

PERHAPS IT WILL BECOME AS THE LEGENDS SAY.

SINCE I CAME TO THIS CAVE IT'S BEEN 5 DAYS

MOTHER CAN'T BE BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE.

...

THERE'S THE STORY THAT SAYS THAT THE LIGHT OF THE FULL MOON CAN BRING MOTHER BACK TO LIFE.

FOR EXAMPLE, WHAT SOME PEOPLE IN TOWN...

... HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT.

... ALREADY DOESN'T HAVE A MOTHER.

THE CENTER...

efx. hehe

THAT WOULD CAUSE PROBLEMS GRIN.

WHY ARE YOU...

IF MOTHER CAN'T BE BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE WON'T WE ALL SUFFER...

IDIOT.

HOW CAN IT BE A SIGN...

A SIGN.

IT WAS THE DREAM OF AN OLD MAN...

... WOULD SAY SUCH THINGS?

WHO...

WELL THEN, I'LL ASK YOU.

...

HOW MANY CHILDREN HAVE THERE BEEN, THESE PAST TEN YEARS?

WHAT'S YOUR VILLAGE POPULATION?

THERE ARE 300 PEOPLE IN MY VILLAGE, BUT WE USED TO RECEIVE 12 CHILDREN EVERY YEAR...

NOWADAYS... THERE MIGHT BE ONE CHILD A YEAR.

THAT'S A SECRET IN EVERY VILLAGE... SINCE THERE'S A CHANCE THAT THEY'LL BE TAKEN AWAY.

AHH..., I DON'T KNOW.

... SOME SMALL VILLAGES HAVE BROKEN UP AND CEASED TO EXIST.

BE-CAUSE THEY DID NOT GET CHILDREN...

WHY IS THE CENTER TREATING HER LIKE A TREA-SURE?

THESE PAST TEN YEARS THE POPULATION OF TOWNS AND EVEN CITIES HAS DWINDLED CONSIDER-ABLY.

WHY IS THIS SO?

BUT IT'S LIKE THAT EVERY-WHERE... BECAUSE MOTHER IS AGING...

MOTHER IS TOO OLD TO BEAR CHIL-DREN.

PERHAPS THE CENTER... HAS ALREADY...

... BE-COME UN-ABLE TO PRODUCE CHILDREN.

THEY DON'T HAVE THE NEXT MOTHER.

NO, IT'S NOT THE MO-THER...

IT'S THE CHIL-DREN.

IF IT WERE LIKE THAT...

... WITHIN 30 YEARS' TIME, EVERYONE WILL HAVE AGED AND WOULD BE WAITING FOR DEATH.

EVENTUALLY THERE WON'T BE A SINGLE HUMAN BEING LEFT ALIVE!

BUT, WHAT ARE YOU SAY-ING?

THAT CHILDREN CAN'T BE BORN IN THIS WORLD ANY-MORE?

BE-CAUSE THERE IS NO MOTHER?

HOW COULD A WORLD WITH-OUT MOTHER EXIST?
THAT WOULD BE LIKE DYING.
FOOL.
THAT'S SILLY.
The world dying is now!
It's dying now!
And it's all because of Mother and the Center.
If we could just change the course of this dying world
With Mother gone; With just a few days left!

MOTHER, THE CENTER AND SO ON BEING THE CAUSE? SUCH THINGS...

YOU ARE ECCEN-TRIC TOO GRIN.

... MY UNCLE WAS UNUSUAL AS WELL, HOWEVER...!

...

... THOSE SAY-INGS. IT'S A FIRST.

... FOR NOW, JUST FORGET THE THINGS THAT I'VE SAID.

... HEH, HOW COULD WE DO IT... CHANGING THIS COURSE...

... THE COURSE WILL GO THE RIGHT WAY. AS FOR NOW.... WHAT'S BAD WILL PASS.

IF THIS WORLD'S LUCK IS STRONG...

DISREGARD WHAT I'VE SAID... IT WAS JUST AN IDEA.

...

... ABOUT THAT, GRIN... I, TOO, HAVE A STRANGE STORY TO TELL... I'VE NEVER TOLD ANYONE THIS STORY.

I ALREADY TOLD YOU THAT I WAS HOSPITALISED IN THE CENTER...

... THAT'S RIGHT, I NEVER EVEN TOLD MY UNCLE... ABOUT THE CENTER...

I DIDN'T OPEN MY EYES FOR A LONG TIME.

I WAS ALWAYS IN BED.

... I'D FALLEN AND CRACKED MY HEAD. I WAS ABOUT 8...

six o'clock

sfx: clonk

WE...

THIS PROJECT IS GOING SMOOTH-LY...

... MAR-GINA-?

MAR-GRA-VE?

... I REMEMBER EACH WORD, EACH PHRASE. THEY'RE CARVED INTO MY BRAIN; THAT VOICE, THOSE WORDS...

... AND THAT FACE TOO.

BUT I DON'T UNDER-STAND...

... WHAT IT MEANS.

YOU'RE ALLOWED TO LAUGH, IT SOUNDS LIKE A DREAM AFTER ALL.

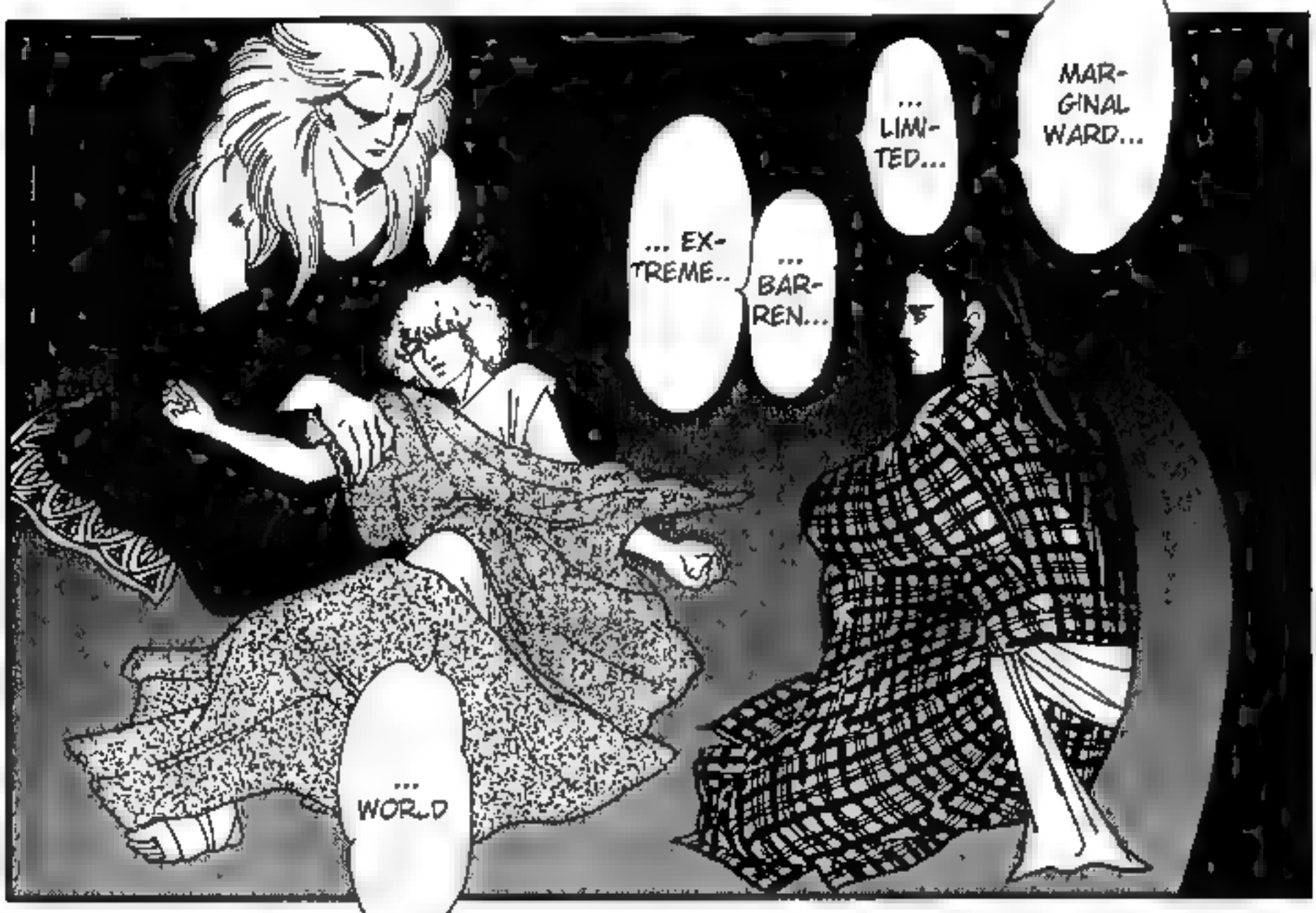
I'VE TRADED WITH YOU ONE STRANGE STORY FOR ANOTHER.

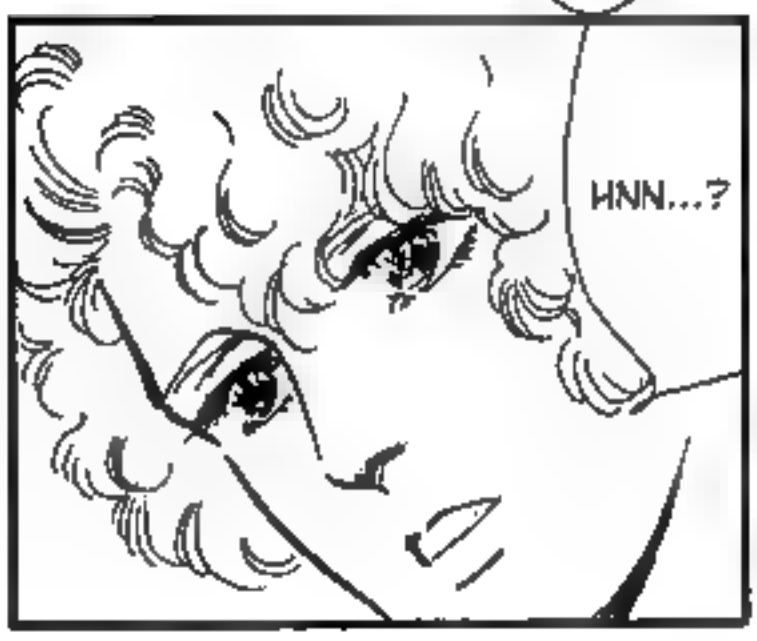
WITH THIS WE'RE EVEN.

...

MAR-GINAL...?

... MAR-
GINA..


... EX-
TREME..
...
BAR-
REN...
...
LIMI-
TED...
MAR-
GINAL
WARD...
...
WORLD


HNN...?

... WHAT
DID YOU
SAY?
KIRA?

THEN WHAT DOES "THE PROJECT IS RUNNING SMOOTHLY" MEAN?

THIS PLACE? AN EXTREMELY LIMITED WORLD...?

... HMM ...?

WHAT KIND OF...?

WHAT'S "MAR-GRAVE"?

UM... MARGINAL... IS... LEADER'S... NICKNAME...

UM... UH... HE WAS THE RULER OF A PROVINCE DURING THE ROMAN EMPIRE.

THE MOON?

SOME-THING ON THIS SIDE OF THE MOON.

WHAT'S "STA-TION"?

THE THINGS HE'S SAYING ARE MAKING SENSE! IS ROMAN EMPIRE A CITY?

ARE THEY YOUR FRIENDS?

COLOMBUS AND... MAGELLAN, I THINK... THEY WENT AROUND THE WORLD...

NUH-UH, IT'S HISTORY... I WAS TAUGHT ABOUT IT...

WHAT DOES "KOLON IS EGG OF MAGELLAN" MEAN?

ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT THE MOON IN THE HEAVENS?

...

I DON'T KNOW...

YOU WERE RAVING ABOUT VARIOUS THINGS WHILE YOU WERE SICK.

BY WHO?

"2999 AD".

HOPE-LESS!

... AN AMERICAN SPACE STATION FROM LONG AGO.

"HOU-STON"!

... THIS YEAR.

THEN...

... THE THREE OF US ARE IN THE SAME BOAT.

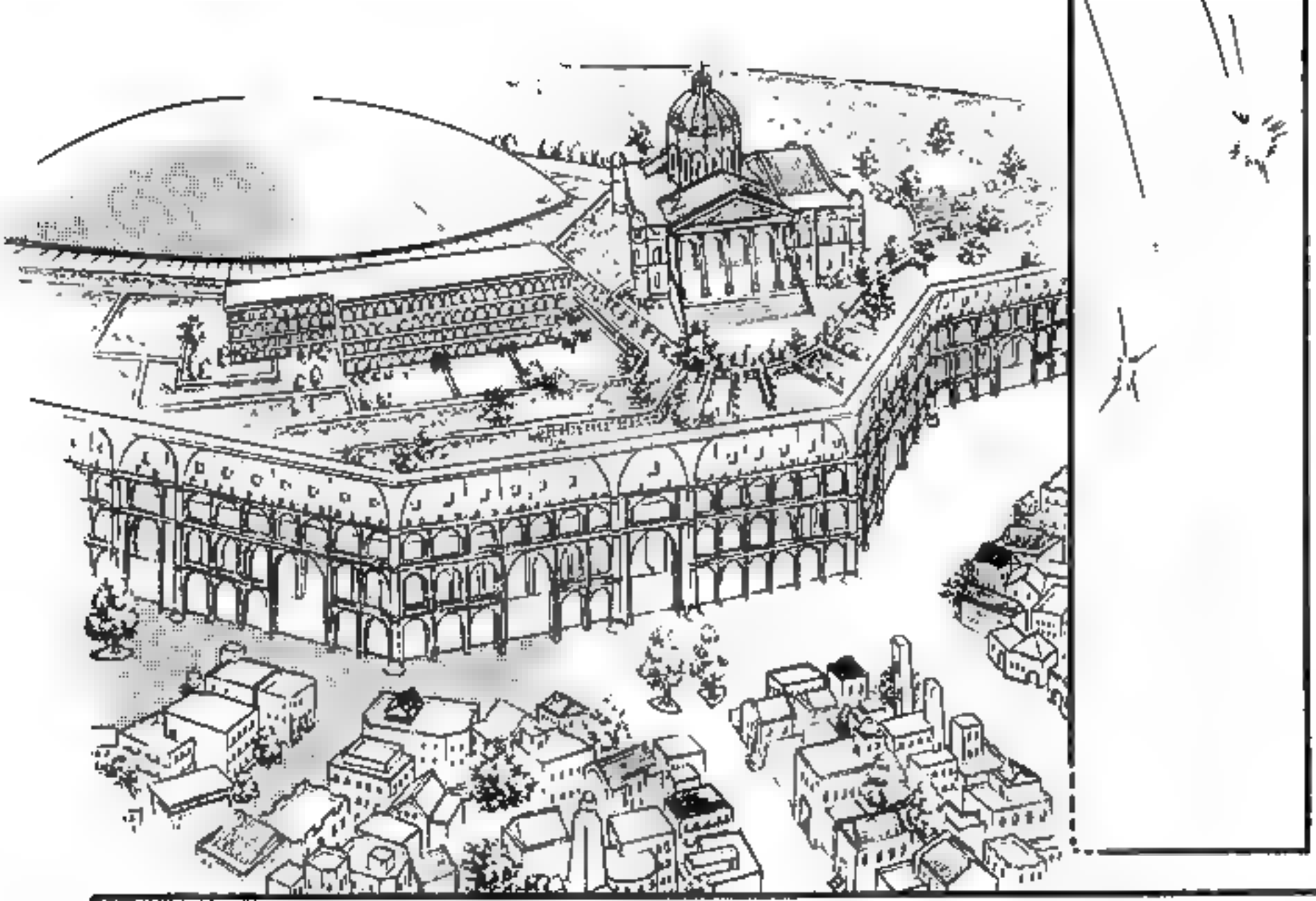
YOUR STORY ABOUT THE CENTER TOO SOUNDED LIKE A STORY FROM ANOTHER WORLD.

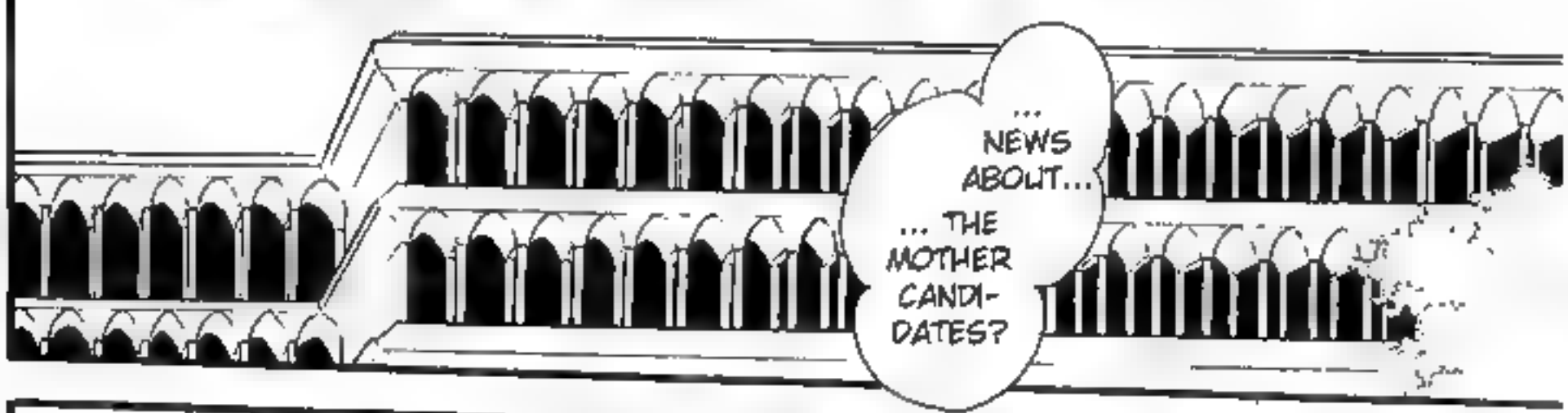
HE'S GOT A FEVER...

... THIS COULD BE TRUE, BUT...

... IT'S ALMOST LIKE WE'RE BEING TOLD THE STORY OF ANOTHER WORLD.

WE'RE ALL A LITTLE STRANGE IN THE HEAD.




... NEWS ABOUT...
... THE MOTHER CANDI-DATES?

... AND 20 FROM THE CITY OUTSKIRTS AND TOWNS.
FOR THE TIME BEING THERE'RE 20 IN THE CITY...

stx pfew

CURRENTLY THE CENTER'S CHECKING OUT THE CANDIDATES TO BRING THE NUMBER DOWN.
IT'S LIKE A CONTEST.
THERE'RE TOO MANY THIS TIME.

DON'T WORRY, WE STILL HAVE TIME.

IT'S A NEW MOON TONIGHT, THERE'S STILL 13 DAYS TILL THE FULL MOON.

... BUT THE PREPARATIONS...

... THE OPERATION?

OPERATION?

OH THAT, THAT.

WILL HAPPEN AFTER PRESENTING MOTHER TO THE PEOPLE, LET'S NOT WORRY ABOUT IT NOW.

SINCE THERE'S NO REASON TO SHOW MOTHER IN THE NUDE...

WHAT ABOUT THE BREASTS... ...

THE SURGERY FOR MAKING THE BREASTS IS EASY; IT CAN BE DONE N A DAY...

... IN A SINGLE DAY?

... SHOULD IT BE NEEDED.

MAYOR, IF YOU WANTED BREASTS AS WELL...

... WE COULD MAKE IT HAPPEN.

sfx: bam

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU SAYING? WHY WOULD I WANT TO GET BREASTS?

...?

What kind of crap are you spouting, Meyard!

MY APOLOGIES. . IT WAS A JOKE, MAYOR.

I... I . MOTHER'S...

I THOUGHT WE WERE TALKING ABOUT MOTHER, OUR HOLY MOTHER!

THAT'S RIGHT.

WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE HOLY SURGERY.

...MAYOR.

WHAT'S WRONG?

IT'S BECAUSE HE'S OLD ALREADY...

TO DIE LIKE THIS...

QUICK CALL THE CHIEF DOCTOR!

I'LL CALL YOU ONCE HE'S REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS.

DON'T WORRY, THE MAYOR IS JUST TIRED AND NEEDS TO REST FOR TWO TO THREE DAYS...

...FATHER.

CALM DOWN.

MASTER MIKAL.

Father!?

THE TEMPLE'S TEACHERS GAVE IT TO ME TO WARD OFF DEMONS.

WHAT'S THAT?

IT'S BECAUSE THERE HAVE BEEN RUMOURS ABOUT DJINN GOING AROUND.

MEY-ARD...

HE'LL BE WELL AGAIN BY THE TIME THE NEW MOTHER IS CHOSEN, IT'LL ONLY TAKE A FEW DAYS.

UM...

ON THE CONTRARY, IT'S GOOD THAT YOU RECEIVED THIS.

I'M NOT PARTICULARLY AGAINST YOU WEARING IT THOUGH.

... LIKE THE ONES ABOUT THE DJINN, REACH EVEN THE MAYOR'S SON...

IT'S A SAD THING WHEN GROUNDLESS RUMOURS SPOUTED BY THE COMMONERS,

AH, THEN IT WAS MOST LIKELY THAT THE CENTER'S HELICOPTERS THAT WERE BURNING THE FOREST.

I'LL LOOK FOR THE REPORT ON THAT RIGHT NOW.

A FOREST SOMEWHERE WAS BURNING...

... ABOUT 10 DAYS AGO...

EVERYONE IS FRIGHTENED, AREN'T THEY? WELL THOSE RUMOURS TOO WILL VANISH WHEN THE NEW MOTHER APPEARS.

IF YOU KNOW ABOUT THE CENTER'S MEDICINE AND SCIENCES AND THINGS L KE THAT THEN YOU'LL UNDERSTAND

BECAUSE IT'S OUR JOB TO BURN SICK FORESTS OVERGROWN WITH MOLD.

MEYARD.

LATER, MIKAL.

W TH MOTHER— GONE.

AREN'T=THE CENTER'S PEOPLE-FRIGHT-ENED AS WELL?

OF COURSE EVERYONE IS FRIGHTENED.

FLYING THROUGH THE SKY WITH THE HELI-COPTER.

COULD THAT BE THE FAULT OF "SCIENCE" AND "MEDICINE".

PEOPLE FROM THE CENTER AND PEOPLE FROM THE TOWN ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT

NOT LONG AGO...

ESPE-CIALLY.

THE CENTER FEELS LIKE AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT WORLD.

... THERE WAS A FOREST FIRE. WHERE'S THE REPORT ABOUT IT? THERE WAS ONE HANDED IN, WASN'T THERE?

HIM.

HE LOOKS LIKE A HUMAN, BUT ISN'T ONE AT ALL.

YES, I'LL LOOK FOR IT.

WAIT, WHAT'S THAT ON THE MONODOR CALENDAR?

2999, OCTOBER...

MONODOR YEAR 420, AUTUMN, 20TH DAY OF THE GOLDEN MONTH, EARLY DAWN, 6 AM.

IT WAS DISCOVERED THAT THE FOREST AT POINT P HAD CHANGED TO A GREY COLOUR, SO 700 HECTARES WERE DESTROYED.

TELL ME THE DETAILS.

AH, I REMEMBER IT. WHAT WAS THE DATE?

... THEY'RE PROBABLY STIRRING THINGS UP BECAUSE THE PEOPLE CONNECT MOTHER'S DEATH WITH THAT FIRE

THOSE SUPERSTITIONS RUN DEEP AMONG TOWNSMEN AND VILLAGERS,...

I REMEMBER, IT WAS THE DAY OF MOTHER'S MURDER... I SEE, WHAT A COINCIDENCE.

THE COMPANY'S SHUTTLE.

WHAT? THAT'S A BREACH OF REGULATIONS, WHICH HELICOPTER WAS IT?

IT WASN'T SUBMITTED.

IS THERE A PICTURE OF THE FOREST?

CHARMS AGAINST DEMONS ARE BEING SOLD.

ARE THE RUMOURS IN THE TOWNS THAT WORRISOME?

IT WAS A COUNTER G TYPE SHUTTLE V, A HIGH PERFORMANCE AIRCRAFT.

WHAT?

THE COMPANY'S SHUTTLE!?

THEY DIDN'T SEND A PICTURE OF THE FOREST?

HOW'S YOUR STOMACH, FLO? DID A COMPANY SHUTTLE COME BY?

HELLO THERE, MEYARD, ARE YOU WELL?

sfx: ping

CALL THE AIRPORT.

DID THEY REALLY COME ALL THIS WAY TO DISPOSE OF A SINGLE FOREST?

IT DOESN'T HAVE PICTURES.

I'VE ONLY JUST READ IT.

DON'T YOU HAVE THE SHUTTLE'S REPORT OVER THERE?

I'M TRYING OUT A NEW STOMACH MEDICINCE.

YES.

THEY WERE AT THIS AIRPORT BECAUSE THEY WERE ON PATROL.

I DON'T MIND, BUT IT SURE IS STRANGE... MAYBE THEY COMBINED THE PATROLS WITH A FLIGHT EXPERIMENT.

THEY SAID THAT THEY RETURNED TO THE STATION IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE FIRE DIED.

I DON'T HAVE PICTURES EITHER; THEY SAID THAT THEY FOUND THE ABNORMALITY IN THE FOREST AROUND POINT P BY SATELLITE AND FLEW IN.

THE COMPANY'S SHUTTLE BURNED THE FOREST..?

...

THE COMPANY PATROLS TWO TO THREE TIMES A YEAR ONLY..

DESTROYING DISEASED FORESTS IS ALLOWED ALTHOUGH...

A REPORT SHOULD HAVE BEEN WRITTEN.....

WHY AREN'T THERE PICTURES FROM BEFORE AND AFTER THEY BURNED IT?

DID THEY REALLY BURN A DISEASED FOREST?

TO KNOW WHAT KND OF FOREST IT WAS..

THERE WAS PROBABLY NOTHING LEFT AFTER THE FIRE.

TAKE CARE OF YOUR STOMACH.

... F.O, COULD YOU FLY A HELICOPTER OVER FROM THE AIRPORT...

... AND COME TAKE A FEW PICTURES OF THE FOREST...?

UNDER-STOOD... OVER.

KIRA.

YOU FAVOUR MY GUEST WHEN I'M YOUR OWNER.

WOULD YOU RATHER PICK HIM AS YOUR NENJA?

sfx. pfft

WHAT'S A "NENJA"...?

THAT'D BE A GOOD REASON FOR CHOSING ME.

AS FOR ME, I OWN THE CAVE THIS ENTIRE REGION COULD BECOME YOURS.

H-EY!

SOME-ONE'S COMING.

... AA-AH, I INVITED A REALLY BOTHERSOME IROKO AND...

... AND AN EQUALLY BOTHER-SOME GUEST.

ASHIJIN!

HE—EY!

sfx: growl

SHUSH!

GOODDAY ASHIJIN.

YO, HOW ARE YOU?

GULLIVER!

... OH... JUUSH!...

I CAME TO GET SOME ICE FROM YOUR ICE HOUSE.

THE TOWN CHIEF FINALLY RETURNED FROM THE CITY YESTERDAY.

IT SEEMS LIKE THERE'S SOME KIND OF BIG UPROAR IN THE CITY.

YOH, YOU'VE GOT GUESTS.

LET'S GO INSIDE.

THEY'RE MY COUSIN AND HIS COMPANION.

SOMEWHAT, HE'S MOSTLY TIRED FROM MOTHER'S DEATH AND TRAVELLING,

... THAT'S WHY I THOUGHT I'D VISIT YOU FOR SOME ICE.

IS THE MOST CHIEF LIKELY HEALTHY?

I DO HAVE SOME, WAIT A BIT.

DON'T YOU HAVE ANY SALT, ASHIJIN?

MOSS LIQUOR'S MY FAVOURITE!

I'LL PAY A VISIT TO THE CHIEF AS WELL.

WE CAN CUT OUT THE ICE TOMORROW MORNING.

SHALL WE HAVE SOME MOSS LIQUOR FIRST?

JUUSHI WILFULLY FOLLOWED ME HERE.

DON'T MIND HIM ASHIJIN.

ISN'T HE? HE'S THE NUMBER ONE BEAUTY IN THE REGION.

... HE'S A REAL BEAUTY.

OH MY, IS THAT SO?

I JUST BOUGHT HIM, HE HASN'T GROWN ATTACHED TO ME YET.

HOW PITIFUL.

sfx hi-oo

A~RA~YO~

NO, HE'S ASHI-JIN'S.

IS HE YOUR IROKO?

SHH.

...HN..

sfx: snore

グオ

sfx: clink

ピン

YES.

... IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, HASN'T IT, ASHIJIN.

THAT'S BECAUSE IT FEELS WEIRD, SEEING MY GRAVE THERE.

I'M GOING TOMOR-ROW WHEN I'VE CUT THE ICE.

YOU NEVER COME TO TOWN.

JUUSHI.

YOU'VE BECOME MORE AND MORE BEAUTI-FUL.

HEHE.

... EVEN THOUGH IT'S BEEN A YEAR.

... YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED...

BUT, I COULD COME TO VISIT YOU.

THAT'S BECAUSE I HATE THE IDEA OF LIVING IN A CAVE.

YOU HAVE BAD TASTE IN IROKOS.

YOU SHOULD HAVE CHO-SEN A BETTER ONE.

WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO DOESN'T WANT TO BE WITH ME.

DID YOU SEE HIS BEARD?

GULLIVER RECENTLY HAS BECOME VERY JEALOUS.

WHEN YOU LEFT ME ALONE IN THE VIL-LAGE...

DID YOU THINK THAT I WOULD STILL BELONG TO YOU?

AND HERE WE ARE, ONE YEAR DOWN THE ROAD...

... AND HE'S GETTING HAIRIER BY THE DAY!

I REALLY THOUGHT THAT HE WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO GROW A BEARD.

WHEN IT WAS TIME TO CHOOSE MY NENJA HE DIDN'T HAVE A BEARD.

IT WAS SPARSE ONE YEAR AGO, BUT IT FILLED OUT NICELY.

AT LEAST HE SHAVES HIS BODY HAIR, BUT THAT BEARD.

I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE.

HAIR STARTED GROWING EVERY-WHERE ON HIM AROUND THAT TIME; ON HIS CHEST, AROUND HIS NAVE.

I AM NOW .. BUT I DON'T KNOW...

... WHEN I'LL START GROWING A BEARD; I WON'T PRETEND THAT I CAN PRE-DICT THAT.

HEY, YOU'RE ALWAYS SMOOTH TO THE TOUCH.

I WOULDN'T MIND A LONG, WHITE BEARD WHEN YOU'RE OLDER.

BUT GULLIVER'S ALREADY A PORCUPINE!

HE WOULDN'T LISTEN EVEN IF I TOLD HIM THAT HIS BEARD WAS PRICKLY AND ROUGH.

IT'D BE ALRIGHT IF YOU COULD GET HIM TO SHAVE HIS BEARD.

DON'T...

I'LL DO IT.

BUT YOU CAN'T.

I CAN'T HEAR YOU.

NNGH.

WAKE UP JUUSHI.

WE NEED TO TRANSPORT THE ICE BEFORE THE TEMPERATURE RISES.

4 O' CLOCK.

... WHAT ... COFFEE? TIME IS IT...

GRINJA.

WANT TO VISIT MY TOWN?

YAWN.

OPEN YOUR EYES.

SLEEP~~~

KIRA.

OK.

KIRA WILL PROBABLY BE WELL ENOUGH TO GO WITH US TOO.

GyAAAAAAAAH

... I've grown a beard!

...
I'M AWA-KE.

WHAT HAP-PENED?

...

JUU-SHI!?

THI... THIS.

A LITTLE BIT.

WHERE?

...AAH.

... I THOUGHT I'D STILL BE OK FOR ANOTHER YEAR OR SO.

17... BUT. .

YOUR TIME AS AN IROKO IS OVER. HOW OLD ARE YOU?

A BEA-RD!

I THOUGHT I WAS PREDIS-POSED TO NOT GROW A BEA-EARD BECAUSE I'M BEAUTIFUL.

17 IS ABOUT RIGHT.

sfx: stare

YES, I HAVE HAIRS HERE AND THERE, I SHAVE AT TIMES.

WHAT ABOUT YOU? HAS IT GROWN?

JUST GET A RAZOR AND YOU WILL BE FINE.

...

OH MAAAAN, ANYWAY MY SKIN'S GOING TO BECOME ROUGH AND MY BEARD'LL GET PRICKLY, WON'T IT? I'M MISERABLE WAAAAAAH...

A BEARD! WHY A BEARD!

I HATE BRATS YOUNGER THAN ME.

BUCK UP, AFTER A WHILE YOU TOO CAN BECOME SOMEONE'S NENJA.

IT'S BECAUSE YOU'VE OUT-GROWN BEING AN IROKO.

BUT ASHIJIN'S STILL SMOOTH.

YOU WERE MEANT TO HAVE A BEARD, THERE'S NO-THING TO BE DONE ABOUT IT.

YOU'RE BEING ANNOY-ING

CHILDREN, CHILDREN

... IF YOU DON'T GET A CHILD?

WHO'S GOING TO INHERIT YOUR POSSES-IONS...

ONE DAY YOU'LL GROW OLD AND DIE.

YOU DIDN'T GET ANY EI-THER.

NOWA-DAYS THERE AREN'T CHILDREN ANYWHERE.

OK

I WANT YOU TO GUARD THE HORSE AND CAMEL

GUL-LI-VER

AND THEM AS WELL

HEY

IT GETS COLD INSIDE

WRAP UP YOUR HANDS AND FEET

GRIN

HE RE-FUSES TO LET GO OF ME LETS JUST BRING HIM

YOU MAKE SURE THAT HE DOESN'T BECOME A BURDEN.

IT'S A PUNISHMENT FOR BEING FICKLE THAT BEARD

OK

WE'LL COME BACK UP AFTER TWENTY MINUTES

Juushi

How dare you take advantage of a grieving person's weakness.

sfx: bang c5

IF I STAY WITH HIM I'LL END UP FIGHTING WITH HIM.

ABOVE!

WHE-RE'S GULLI-VER?

HEY.

HOLD ON TO THE ROPE.

BE CARE-FUL.

JUU-SHI!

sfx: click

TURN UP THE LIGHT.

I'LL BEGIN BREAKING THE ICE...

BRRR.

THIS IS PROBABLY FAR ENOUGH.

sfx: bright

KIRA...!

●プチコミックス——①

マージナル

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